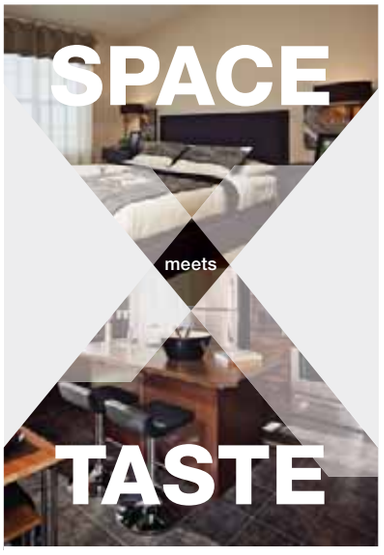
3 Free Days 4 Top Resorts
Save $20 all other days
LOUISE +PLUS CARD
$99
skilouise.com

NAKED TRUTH ABOUT BIG-SCREEN NUDITY

STEWART SAYS SHE'S SICK AND TIRED OF THE ATTENTION HER NUDE SCENES ARE GETTING IN ON THE ROAD PAGE 24



Axio
Brookfield Homes
www.axiocalgary.com

CALGARY metro
Wednesday, December 12, 2012
News worth sharing.
metronews.ca | twitter.com/metrocalgary | facebook.com/metrocalgary

Universities in Calgary feel the pinch

Funding gaps. Struggles will remain even after U of C and MRU hike tuition rates next year

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Calgary universities are once again feeling the pinch and the president of one such institution appears to be levelling the blame squarely at the province.

In an article posted to the website for Mount Royal University, President David Docherty is recorded as telling a crowd of students, faculty and staff during a budget town hall last month that the institution "doesn't have a spending problem; it has a revenue problem ... we had an agreement in writing with the province and they froze funding at a critical moment."

Docherty's comments came in relation to projected shortfalls in the university's operating budget of $5.4 million in 2013-2014 and $6.2 million the following year, which he believes stem largely from once-promised provincial grant money that never materialized. That funding intended to help with the institution's recent shift to offering four-year degrees.

On Tuesday, Mount Royal's vice-president for administrative services Duane Anderson did not rule out staffing and program cuts but said budgetary discussions were only in preliminary stages.

"There will be trade-offs," he said. "There will be things we'll have to change or adjust or stop doing."

At the University of Calgary, vice-president academic and provost Dru Marshall conveyed a similar financial reality during a board of governors meeting last week, but she did not anticipate immediate cuts to programming.

The province has committed to two per cent grant increases for all post-secondary institutions beginning this year through to 2015.

Advanced education ministry spokesperson Marie Iwanow said more consultation will be done with Alberta institutions ahead of the springtime budget update.

"I would say it's too early to say if they need more or do not need more (funding)," she said.

Follow Jeremy Nolais on Twitter @Metro_Nolais

CAMP UNDERWAY

PAGE 40

Calgary Flames goalie prospect, Laurent Brossoit, from Surrey, B.C., has a drink of water during the National Junior hockey team selection camp in Calgary on Tuesday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

RBC Royal Bank
RBC® Visa‡ Gift Cards make gift giving easy!
Denominations from $25 – $500. No fees after purchase*. Funds don't expire.
Get yours today at any **RBC Royal Bank® branch** or visit **rbc.com/visagiftcard** to learn more.
Advice you can bank on™

® / ™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. ‡ All other trademarks are the property of their respective owner(s). *A $3.95 fee applies at the time of card purchase. VPS81238

A plan this UNLIMITED deserves the largest LTE network.[1]

VOICE & DATA 65

$65/MO

- UNLIMITED anytime local minutes
- UNLIMITED text, picture and video messaging[2]
- 1 GB of data[3]

For $10/month more, get unlimited Canadian long distance minutes.[4]

Samsung Galaxy Note II™ superphone

~~$199.95~~ 3-yr. term with voice & data plan | $729.95 No term

NOW: $99.95[5]

Samsung Galaxy S III™ superphone

~~$99.95~~ 3-yr. term with voice & data plan | $649.95 No term

NOW: $49.95[5]

LG Optimus G superphone

~~$99.95~~ 3-yr. term with voice & data plan | $649.95 No term

NOW: $49.95[6]

after $50 in-store credit (new activations only).

Sony Xperia™ T superphone

~~$49.95~~ 3-yr. term with voice & data plan | $549.95 No term

NOW: $0[6]

after $50 in-store credit (new activations only).

Trade in your current phone and you could get up to $200 towards the phone you want.[7]

Visit a Bell store • 1 888 4-MOBILE • bell.ca

Bell staying in touch just got better

Available at the following Bell stores:

BANFF
- Cascade Plaza

CALGARY
- 216 Saddletowne Circle
- 1002–17th Ave SW
- 9650 Harvest Hills Blvd NE
- Beacon Hill Centre
- Bow Valley Square – Kiosk
- Chinook Centre
- Chinook Centre – Kiosk
- Crowfoot Crossing
- Deerfoot Meadows
- Deerfoot Outlet Mall
- Eaton Centre
- Market Mall
- Market Mall – Kiosk
- Marlborough Mall
- Marlborough Mall – Kiosk
- North Hill Shopping Centre – Kiosk
- Northland Village
- Shawnessy Village
- Southcentre Mall
- Southcentre Mall – Kiosk
- Southpointe Shopping Centre
- Sunridge Mall
- Sunridge Mall – Kiosk
- Westbrook Mall – Kiosk

CANMORE
- 105–802 Bow Valley Trail

EDMONTON
- 3918 White Mud & 17th St
- 6143–28th Ave
- 9774–170th St
- 10603–107th Ave
- 17551–100th Ave
- 14822 Stony Plain Rd
- 18559 Stony Plain Rd
- Abbottsfield Shoppers Mall
- Bonnie Doon
- Capilano Mall
- Edmonton City Centre
- Kingsway Mall
- Kingsway Mall – Kiosk
- Londonderry Mall
- Mill Woods Town Centre
- Northgate Centre
- Northgate Centre – Kiosk
- Oliver Square
- Sherwood Park Mall
- South Edmonton Common
- South Park Centre
- Southgate Mall – Kiosk
- St Albert Trail at 137 Ave
- West Edmonton Mall
- West Edmonton Mall – Kiosk
- Westmount Centre

FORT MCMURRAY
- 19 Riedel St
- Peter Pond Shopping Centre

GRANDE PRAIRIE
- Prairie Mall

LETHBRIDGE
- Centre Village Mall – Kiosk
- Lethbridge SmartCentres
- Park Place

LLOYDMINSTER
- Lloyd Mall

MEDICINE HAT
- Carry Drive Plaza
- Medicine Hat Mall

PEACE RIVER
- 10032–100th St

RED DEER
- Bower Place Shopping Centre
- Parkland Mall
- Southpointe Common

ROCKY VIEW
- Crossiron Mills Mall
- Crossiron Mills Mall – Kiosk

SPRUCE GROVE
- Creekside Centre

ST ALBERT
- 460–140 St Albert Rd
- St Albert Centre

WHITECOURT
- 3439–34th Avenue

Also available at these retailers:

Best Buy mobile your phone, your way | Costco Wholesale | Future Shop | booth wireless | The Source | Visions | Wireless etc... | Wirelesswave

Offer ends December 31, 2012. Available with compatible devices within network coverage areas available from Bell Mobility; see bell.ca/coverage. Long distance and roaming charges (including foreign taxes) may apply. Paper bill charge ($2/mo.) applies unless you register for e-bill and cancel your paper bill. Other monthly fees, e.g., 911 (Sask: $0.62, New Brunswick: $0.53, Nova Scotia: $0.43, P.E.I.: $0.50, Quebec: $0.40), and one-time device activation ($35) apply. Fees may apply for applications, features, content and roaming when outside your local area. Upon early termination, price adjustments apply; see your Service Agreement for details. Subject to change without notice. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. (1) Based on total square kms of coverage on the shared 4G LTE network available from Bell vs. Rogers' LTE network. See bell.ca/LTE for details. (2) Sent messages include domestic text messages and exclude international and premium messages, alerts, messages sent with a messaging application and roaming (international GSM, CDMA and U.S. CDMA messages). Received messages include domestic, international, roaming and exclude premium messages, alerts or dial-up messages received from a messaging application. Out-of-bundle charges may apply. Data usage charges may apply with select CDMA smartphones to send and receive picture and video messages. (3) Supports personal email accounts and HTML and WAP browsing and tethering. (4) Applies to long distance calls made and received in Canada, in Bell Mobility coverage areas. (5) With new activation on a 3-yr. term on a post-paid voice and data plan or a post-paid voice plan and a data feature with a min. value of $50/mo. (6) Net price after $50 in-store rebate. With new activation on a 3-yr. term on a post-paid voice and data plan or a post-paid voice plan and a data feature with a min. value of $50/mo. Rebate applies at the time of purchase on the price of the device and/or accessories in-store before taxes. Excludes iPhone, Samsung Galaxy Note II and Samsung Galaxy S III. (7) At participating locations. Must be 18 yrs. or older and the legal owner of the phone traded in. Max. 1 phone per trade-in. Rebate applies at the time of purchase on the price of the device and/or accessories in-store after taxes. Amount of rebate depends on the value of the phone; not all phones will get a rebate. See bell.ca/tradein for details. Samsung, Galaxy Note II and Galaxy S III are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., used in Canada under licence. «LG», the «LG logo» and «LG Optimus G» are the property of LG Corp and its affiliates. Xperia is a trademark or registered trademark of Sony Mobile Communications AB.

Inquiry. Redford's sister denies role in queue-jumping

Premier Alison Redford's sister says she has never pulled strings to help someone get faster or better health care.

"I've not been involved in adjusting wait lists of any sort, nor have I been involved in expediting access for anyone," Lynn Redford testified on Tuesday before an inquiry looking into alleged queue-jumping for well-connected Albertans.

Redford was testifying about her time as director of government relations at the Calgary health region before it and all other health regions were folded into the Alberta Health Services super-board in 2009.

She told inquiry lawyer Jason Wilkins that she never received requests from politicians or anyone else to deliver fast-track care for prominent people.

"I didn't receive calls like that," she said.

"You don't recall a single one?" prodded Wilkins.

"No, I don't."

Redford also said she didn't know of anyone else who has received or facilitated faster care.

The inquiry, under the auspices of the Health Quality Council, was ordered this year by Premier Redford to investigate a memo circulated by the former head of Alberta Health Services, Stephen Duckett, in the spring of 2009.

The memo said "it's not uncommon" for health officials to get requests to give preferential treatment to VIPs and said such behaviour was unacceptable.

Earlier on Tuesday, former health minister Ron Liepert testified he had heard media reports of queue-jumping when he served in the job for almost two years starting in the spring of 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The storm that struck Calgary on Aug. 13 ended up causing $552 million in damage over a period of 48 hours, the Insurance Bureau of Canada says.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Hailstorm damage tops $550 million

Western weather woes. By contrast, Superstorm Sandy caused $100M in damage across Ontario and Quebec, insurance overseer says

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Damage from the major hailstorm that swept through Calgary in August now totals $552 million and accounts for more than half the insurable losses caused by severe weather in Canada this year, new figures show.

Nationwide insurable damage in 2012 has topped $1 billion, said Steve Kee, spokesman for the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC), with the bulk of it coming during a 48-hour period in mid-August in Calgary and surrounding areas.

That's when a massive storm dropped hailstones larger than golf balls, devastating several parts of the city.

"There are auto claims, there are business claims, there are home insurance claims — it goes right across," Kee said.

This is the third year in the past four that weather claims in Canada have surpassed $1 billion, IBC data reveals.

Insurers across the country have seen a boost in claims related to severe weather over the past two or three decades, said IBC senior vice-president Gregor Robinson.

That shouldn't come as a surprise, according to Ald. Brian Pincott, who said the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted in 2007 that the eastern slopes of the Rockies, in particular, would see more severe weather as global temperatures rise.

"The IPCC fourth report … clearly identified us as being one of the areas in the world that would be impacted by exactly what we're seeing," Pincott said.

Cities need to adapt infrastructure construction and maintenance practices to withstand increasingly frequent severe weather, said Michael Atkinson, president of the Canadian Construction Association.

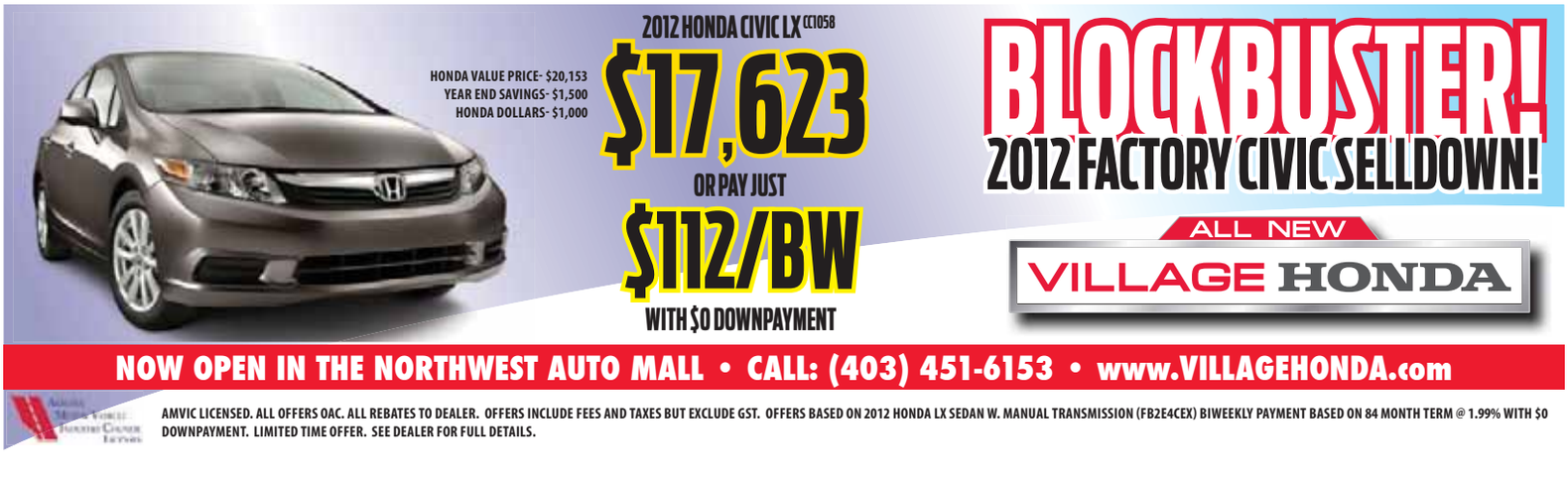
"It's a relatively new development that really needs to be on the agenda," he said.

Wild insurance claims

Insurable damage from other major Alberta events:

- **Calgary windstorm of November 2011:** $225 million
- **Slave Lake wildfire of May 2011:** $700 million
- **Calgary wind/hailstorm of July 2010:** $552 million

Source: Insurance Bureau of Canada


2012 HONDA CIVIC LX CC1058
HONDA VALUE PRICE- $20,153
YEAR END SAVINGS- $1,500
HONDA DOLLARS- $1,000
$17,623
OR PAY JUST
$112/BW
WITH $0 DOWNPAYMENT
BLOCKBUSTER!
2012 FACTORY CIVIC SELLDOWN!
ALL NEW
VILLAGE HONDA
NOW OPEN IN THE NORTHWEST AUTO MALL • CALL: (403) 451-6153 • www.VILLAGEHONDA.com
AMVIC LICENSED. ALL OFFERS OAC. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. OFFERS INCLUDE FEES AND TAXES BUT EXCLUDE GST. OFFERS BASED ON 2012 HONDA LX SEDAN W. MANUAL TRANSMISSION (FB2E4CEX) BIWEEKLY PAYMENT BASED ON 84 MONTH TERM @ 1.99% WITH $0 DOWNPAYMENT. LIMITED TIME OFFER. SEE DEALER FOR FULL DETAILS.

Green. Electric car to make pit stop in Calgary

They've driven about halfway across the country without spending a dime on gas and they're hoping more Canadians will do the same in the future.

Sun Country Highway — a Saskatchewan-based company — has been installing charging stations for electric vehicles across the country, many of which are along the Trans-Canada Highway.

To show consumers it's possible, Sun Country is driving an electric Tesla Roadster across Canada and will be making a pit stop in Calgary on Friday.

"This is the culmination of years of brainstorming," said spokesperson Stephen Bieda.

Sun Country recently installed two electric charging stations in the Calgary Parking Authority's Civic Plaza Parkade and have about 200 stations nationwide.

"We've tried to figure out a way to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles," said Bieda. "Auto manufacturers are saying, 'We're not going to ramp up production because the infrastructure isn't in.' It's sort of a chicken and egg argument."

The tour started in St. John's, N.L., and will end in Victoria, B.C.

Sun Country Highway will be in Calgary with the Tesla Roadster on Friday meeting with the Calgary Parking Authority and on Saturday at the Greenwood Inn, which is one of their partners.

KATIE TURNER /METRO

Sun Country Highway founder and president Kent Rathwell poses at one of their charging stations during their Prince Edward Island tour. FACEBOOK PHOTO.

Crime. Man in hospital after Edmonton officers fire at robbery suspect

A male suspect is clinging to life after being shot multiple times by two police officers during an alleged armed robbery in south Edmonton on Tuesday afternoon.

Edmonton Police Services responded to a report of an armed robbery just before 2 p.m. Tuesday at a Canadian Western Bank in south Edmonton, said EPS Deputy Chief Brian Simpson.

The incident is being investigated by both EPS and the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT).

An adult male in his mid-20s was struck "numerous" times by two uniformed members of the EPS, said ASIRT executive director Clifton Purvis.

"We are dealing with one affected person and numerous civilian witnesses who were in the bank and outside the bank at the time the shots were fired," said Purvis, on scene late Tuesday afternoon.

EMS treated and transported the victim to an area hospital in what was later described by police as "life threatening condition." METRO

The staff member accused of voyeurism at the Canyon Meadows Aquatic and Fitness Centre has been suspended, according to the city. ROBSON FLETCHER / METRO CALGARY

Worker charged with peeping on colleagues

Voyeurism. Rec facility employee arrested after allegedly putting hidden camera in women's staff locker room; no other cameras were found

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Police arrested a Calgary recreation facility employee this week for allegedly setting up a hidden camera in a staff changing room and capturing images of four women as they undressed.

Donald Robertshaw, 60, was arrested at his home on Monday and charged with four counts of voyeurism, according to police.

Staff Sgt. Craig Skelton said officers were initially called on Nov. 30 to the Canyon Meadows Aquatic and Fitness Centre after two digital storage devices were found in the parking lot, apparently dropped there by accident.

The devices contained images of four female employees changing in the women's staff locker room, Skelton said.

Police don't believe any public change rooms were targeted and have no evidence the images were shared.

"It appears the images were captured and used solely by the accused," Skelton said.

City of Calgary recreation manager Heather Bruce said staff have completed a "complete sweep of all facilities" and found no other cameras.

"Based on the sweep, there is no indication other city aquatic sites were compromised or that public privacy was breached," Bruce said.

Robertshaw is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 10, 2013.

Quoted

"It is a violation of their privacy. It is alarming to imagine that they have been photographed or videotaped in various states of undress."

Police Staff Sgt. Craig Skelton, on the four female victims.

ENDS DECEMBER 31ST
No term contract. No hidden fees.
$40 per month
UNLIMITED
DATA + CANADA/US TALK + GLOBAL TEXT
• Low international calling rates to over 200 countries from 1¢/min
• Voicemail+
• Caller ID
THAT'S THE POWER OF WIND™
Learn more at WINDmobile.ca

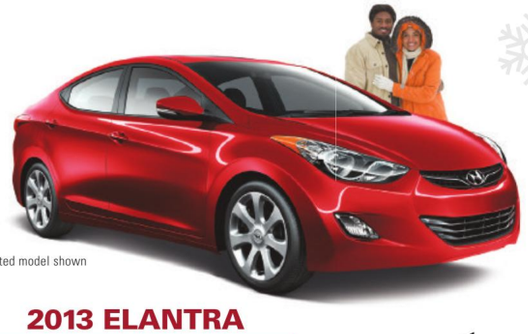
The $40 Unlimited Wish Plan monthly fee only covers use of the plan features from anywhere on our network. Unlimited Wish Plan available until Dec 31st 2012 or prior notice of termination on WINDmobile.ca and is available to individual customers only. The $40 Unlimited Wish Plan is available only as long as you keep the plan without interruption. Available to new customers and, under certain conditions, to existing customers. For eligible customers and devices, the $40 Unlimited Wish plan may be activated in conjunction with WINDtab and is eligible for Better Together Savings. All services subject to WIND's Terms of Service, Fair Usage Policy and Internet Traffic Management Policy. Conditions apply. Applicable taxes extra. Learn more at WINDmobile.ca. WIND, WIND MOBILE and WINDtab are trademarks of Wind Telecommunicazioni S.p.A. and are used under license in Canada by Globalive Wireless Management Corp. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2012 WIND Mobile.

GET BOXING DAY SAVINGS NOW!

HYUNDAI | NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.™

EMPLOYEE FRIENDS & FAMILY PRICING

0%† FINANCING + UP TO $10,000 ON SELECT MODELS IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡



HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 ELANTRA

GET UP TO $2,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $15,444♦

ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.8L/100 KM

SE with Tech. shown

2013 ELANTRA GT

GET UP TO $1,850 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $18,794♦

ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SMALL CAR (OVER $21K)

HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SONATA

GET UP TO $3,500 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 48 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $22,064♦

SONATA GL AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

THE MOST FUEL-EFFICIENT FULL-SIZED CAR – NATURAL RESOURCE CANADA'S 2012 ECOENERGY VEHICLE AWARD◊

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE

GET UP TO $1,150 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $27,109♦

SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SUV (OVER $35K)

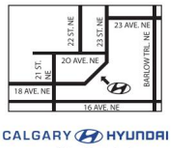
5 YEAR WARRANTY
100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY††

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

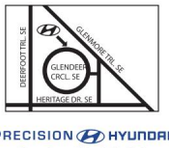
HYUNDAI | NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.™
HyundaiCanada.com

™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto with an annual finance rate of 0%/0%/0%/0% for 24/24/48/24 months. Bi-weekly payment is $297/$362/$213/$522. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0/$0/$0/$0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Sonata GL Auto for $22,064 (includes $3,500 price adjustment) at 0% per annum equals $213 bi-weekly for 48 months for a total obligation of $22,064. Cash price is $22,064. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,565. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ▼Fuel consumption for 2013 Elantra Sedan L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.2L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.8L/100KM)/2013 Sonata GL Auto (HWY 5.6L/100KM; City 8.7L/100KM)/2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto (HWY 6.7L/100KM, City 10.1L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. †♦Friends & Family prices for models shown (includes $2,000/$1,805/$3,225/$1,250 in price adjustments): 2013 Elantra Limited/Elantra GT SE Tech 6-Speed Auto/Sonata Limited/Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD is $22,694/$26,039/$27,339/$39,009. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ♦Friends & Family Selling Prices are calculated against the starting price less all factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments). Friends & Family Selling Prices include Delivery and Destination. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ‡Factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments) are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Factory to Dealer Price adjustments of $2,000/$1,850/$3,500/$1,150 available on 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto includes Friends & Family price adjustments. Factory to dealer price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †♦‡Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ◊Based on Natural Resource Canada's 2012 ecoEnergy award for most fuel efficient full-size car. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

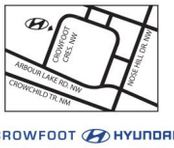
YOUR CALGARY HYUNDAI™ DEALERS



CALGARY HYUNDAI
1920 23rd St. N.E. Calgary,
403-250-9990



PRECISION HYUNDAI
130 Glendeer Cir. S.E. Calgary,
403-538-9536



CROWFOOT HYUNDAI
710 Crowfoot Crescent NW,
403-374-3374

THE HYUNDAI GALLERY
11770 Lake Fraser Dr. S.E., Calgary
403-225-6512

Christmas conundrum: Real or fake tree?

Day 5:
On the fifth of Metro's 12 Days of Christmas, Metro Edmonton reporter Heather McIntyre and Metro Calgary reporter Lisa Wilton square off in a festive fight about trees: Real or fake?

Fake

Who needs green when you can have white? METRO

Many questions arise during the Christmas season — Does a 7-11 gift card count as a present? Exactly how many calories were in that tin of Almond Roca I just ate? Did my boss notice me crawling out of the staff Christmas party on my hands and knees after drinking two bottles of red wine? Etc., etc.

But perhaps the most pressing question we are posed each year is: Real or fake?

Christmas trees, that is.

It's a subject that stirs up some intense emotional debate.

Fans of the real deal pine, spruce and fir trees will go on (and on and on) about tradition and texture and the inspiring, uplifting smells that fill a home with the joy and warmth of the holidays. Or something.

I say that's what Glade's Spruce It Up room spray is for.

Give me a perfectly symmetrical, already light-bulbed, tacky-as-Courtney-Stodden faux tannenbaum any year.

I've heard all the pro-real tree arguments before — "It's about the experience of picking out the perfect tree," "A real tree is beautiful and organic," "Artificial ones cause climate change. Why do you hate Christmas?"

But there's something to be said for efficiency.

Think about it; most fake trees come in no more than three or four pieces, the lights are usually attached and you're not dragging out your vacuum every five hours to clean up the piles of needles strewn about the living room.

And seriously, who doesn't like the smell of a little polyvinyl chloride in the morning?

I don't know about you, but bundling up in layers of winter wear to spend an hour traipsing around a parking lot in -20 C temperatures looking for that peerless woody perennial is not what I consider fun.

This might have something to do with the fact that, not unlike my Christmas shopping habits, I've always left getting a real Christmas tree to the last minute.

This means I'm choosing between roughly three trees — one of which would probably fill the foyer of the Fairmont Palliser, and another that makes Charlie Brown's sickly Christmas conifer look like a tree that could, well, fill the foyer of the Fairmont Palliser.

Sure, hot pink and midnight black aren't exactly Christmas colours and may not be to everyone's liking, but a crystal white tree can look elegant, and there are lovely, realistic green-coloured ones that can be found. But where's the fun in that? **LISA WILTON/METRO CALGARY**

Real

'Smell the benefits' of a real tree METRO

There may be a few things about Christmas that aren't real, such as Santa Claus, flying reindeer, and Santa Mouse (Google it).

But there is one thing that should be real each and every season — your tree.

Sure, it means you have to hunt one down and figure out how to haul it home. And it may look more scraggly than its fake counterparts, or leave needles on the floor. But that's the beauty of it!

There is no better way to kick off the holidays with the family than heading out to pick out the perfect greenery for the living room. Just ask the Griswolds! (Ok, bad example.)

Honestly, though, it's a fun experience, and that way you can get the exact height, width and shape of tree you want to accommodate all of those ornaments the kids made you at school. (Including the sheep made out of black construction paper and cotton balls.)

And once you get the tree up and decorated, you will feel accomplished — and smell the benefits.

We all purchase pine-scented cleaner for the house, and the same scented freshener for the car — so why not embrace the actual natural smell?

It's worth the price — just buy a few less boxes of chocolates, or gin and tonics at the staff Christmas party, and voila! You will have the $60 to $80 you need to spruce up your home (pun intended).

Some may argue that fake trees last longer and are cheaper, but you also have to dismantle them, fit them back in the box (which is always impossible), and store them (and you probably have enough junk ... in boxes ... in the basement).

You can just chuck your real tree to the curb come January. Literally.

And it is greener to go green since your real tree is a renewable, recyclable resource, as opposed to hunks and shreds of coloured plastic and metals.

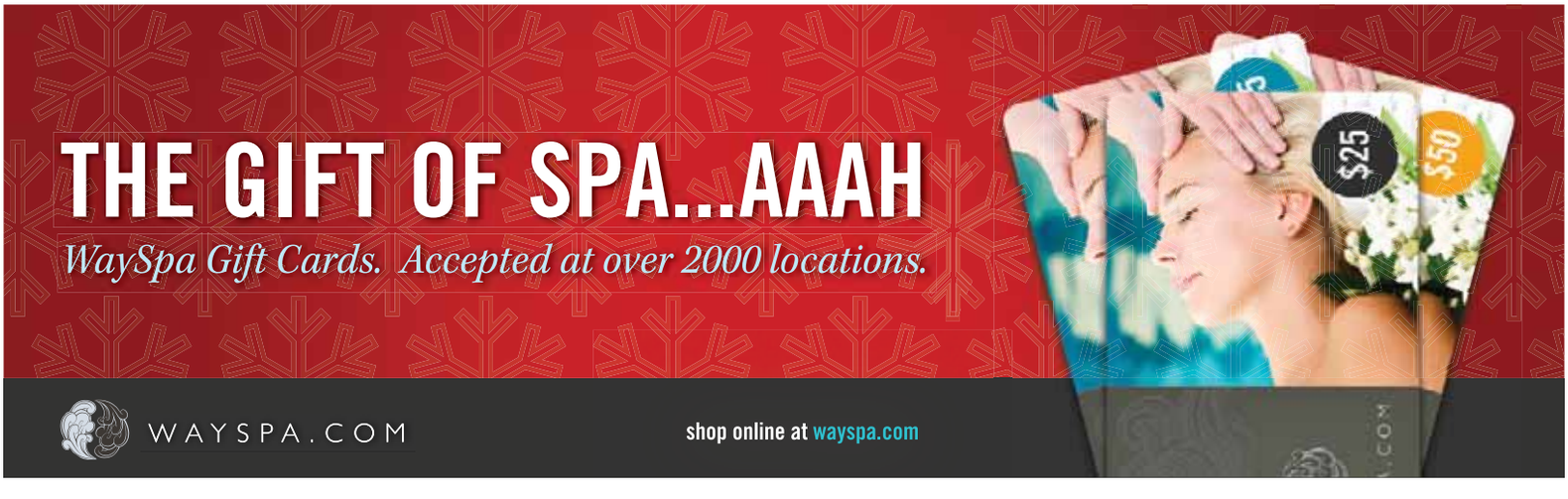
I am not alone in my beliefs.

According to Brock Friesen, owner of Dunvegan Gardens, business hasn't swayed over the years.

"We're increasing our orders slightly each year," he told me. Good.

Now, if you have set up a 20-year-old fake tree or one purchased at the Zellers clearance sale last week, I ask you one thing: Get a real one (next year, at least).

I am especially directing this at those of you who have fake trees that come with lights already installed, white trees (why?) or — even worse — pink trees (WHY?). C'mon, get real. **HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO IN EDMONTON**



CALGARY'S LARGEST PREOWNED SELECTION ONLY AT CMPAUTO.COM

CMPAUTO.COM CMPAUTO.COM CMPAUTO.COM CMPAUTO.COM

ENTER TO WIN A CHANCE IN OUR 4TH ANNUAL SOBEY'S GROCERY DASH!

>> DASH.CMPAUTO.COM <<

PLUS: HELP US RAISE A BOAT-LOAD OF GROCERIES FOR THE FOOD BANK!

CMP WILL MATCH ***POUND FOR POUND*** *ALL DONATIONS!*

WINTER CONQUERERS SPECIAL BUY

2012 BUICK ENCLAVEs CXL AWD

AVAILABLE FEATURES INCLUDE LEATHER, DUAL SUNROOF, POWER LIFTGATE, REMOTE STARTER, NAV, BLUETOOTH, **LOW KM**

FROM $37,995 OR $138/WK

*PURCHASE A VEHICLE BETWEEN DECEMBER 1, 2012 AND DECEMBER 14,2012 AND BE ENTERED INTO A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF 12 SOBEY'S GROCERY DASHES. DASH TAKES PLACE DECEMBER 18TH VISIT DASH.CMPAUTO.COM FOR DETAILS. PAYMENT IS O.A.C. @ 5.99% FOR 84 MONTHS. TAXES (GST) AND FEES ($449 ADMINISTRATION & $6.25 AMVIC) NOT INCLUDED. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS EXEMPT. VEHICLE MAY NOT BE EXACTLY AS SHOWN.

CMP GM
CHEVROLET Cadillac BUICK GMC

1313 36 St. NE
Calgary, AB T2A 6P9
403-930-1634
cmpauto.com

REBUILD YOUR CREDIT
BANKRUPTCY | DIVORCE | NO CREDIT
NEW CREDIT | NEW TO CANADA
100% APPROVAL RATING
403.569.5416
CALGARYAUTOFINANCING.COM

CHEVROLET BUICK GMC Cadillac CMP GM

16 AVE NE
DEERFOOT TR N
COAST PLAZA HOTEL
CMP
36 ST NE
12 AVE NE
MEMORIAL DR

GM Canada Optimum CERTIFIED USED VEHICLES
- Manufacturer's warranty
- 150+ point inspections
- 30 day/2500 km no-hassle exchange privilege
- 24-hour roadside assistance

CANADA'S BEST MANAGED COMPANIES
AMVIC LICENSED

FOLLOW US FOR NEWS, EVENTS, SPECIALS, PRIZES:

FREE MOBILE APP: Available on the iPhone App Store | Google play

SAIT Polytechnic

Students make long-distance calling free

A group of Calgary students have turned their calls home to India into a business.

Three second-year information technology students at SAIT Polytechnic have created a project that makes long-distance calling free from Calgary to anywhere in Canada, the United States and India.

Instead of paying long-distance fees, users listen to a 15-second ad before their call. Users must sign up at www.freecalling.ca before calling.

The students expect the business — called SYNQH Telecom — to be fully operational in a week or two, according to one of the founders, Gurbinder Jassal.

"We're really excited. I came from India two years ago with the goal of setting up a business. I'm just thinking that I'm reaching my goal," Jassal said.

SYNQH already has seven companies lined up to advertise to callers.

Eugene Blanchard has been SYNQH's faculty advisor at SAIT Polytechnic since the beginning of the semester. He's seen Jassal and his partners Gurtej Rai and Sutej Batth develop the business from a simple idea — free calling.

"It's very rewarding as an instructor to see students take something like this and go way beyond my imagination," Blanchard said. RYAN KESSLER/FOR METRO

Gurbinder Jassal, left, Gurtej Rai and Sutej Batth turned their college assignment into a way around long-distance charges.
CONTRIBUTED

City beat cops could get social media accounts

Online. Police expanding role on various platforms, seeing increased feedback

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Police walking a beat in Calgary could be given licence to communicate with the public using social media.

That's just one of many ideas being explored as the Calgary Police Service develops a "road map" of its online footprint, said digital communications team lead Michelle Dassinger.

She said while the corporate accounts on platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube offer overall branding for the service and high-level information, personal input could open new doors for communicating with the general public.

"We totally realize the reality is people are doing things in a new way," Dassinger said. "Social media has allowed people, for example, to not have to walk into a district office to ask a question of the police service."

James Bond, a lawyer who splits his efforts between Vancouver and Calgary and has done a great deal of work in the area of social media law, welcomed the service's initiative but offered a cautionary tale to officers.

"The tendency we all have to express our thoughts in real time in a social media context, that certainly is a risk that would need to be considered," he said.

Tweeting on the job could someday be reality for Calgary police working in various areas of the city.
ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

CPS social media highlights

- Two CPS videos published on YouTube have already topped 5,000 views. The first is a called Anatomy of an Investigation and the second is the first in a series on being homeless in Calgary.
- CPS says more than one million people are being reached each month either through direct subscription or relation to friends who have subscribed.
- Unlike when it officially launched its Twitter outreach effort last year with a civilian team responding to inquiries, the Calgary Police Service now has two constables monitoring the account and providing real-world feedback — this also serves as a social media training ground for newer members.

Source: Information provided by Michelle Dassinger, the Calgary police digital communications team lead

Calgary's ever-rising taxes still among country's lowest

Critics say Calgary's property taxes are constantly rising while the mayor defends the city's taxation levels as among the lowest in Canada.

So who's right? They both are, to a certain extent.

The amount most Calgarians pay in tax on their homes has indeed grown steadily for the past decade, from about $1,700 on an average house in 2003 to $2,470 in 2012.

Due to Calgary's "revenue neutral" calculation system, however, the tax rate has gone up and down — something Mayor Naheed Nenshi is quick to point out.

"Although it sounds like the taxes are compounding every year, they're not really, because when the assessment base grows our tax rate automatically drops," Nenshi said.

The tax rate on residential properties dropped by 27 per cent between 2003 and 2012, but the value of a typical home nearly doubled during that period.

Calgary's chief financial officer Eric Sawyer said assessment changes only affect homeowners if the value of their property changes relative to the average change in value across the city.

"The assessment doesn't raise taxes, the assessment distributes taxes," he said.

Derek Fildebrandt, Alberta director of the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation, said while most Calgarians might not understand all the inner workings of the property tax system, they have an accurate gauge of what's important. "I think they understand only thing about them — and that's that they only ever go up," he said. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

2012 property tax comparison:

	Calgary	Winnipeg	Vancouver (West Side)
• Tax rate / $1K:	6.17	12.73	4.05
• Typical house:	$400K	$234K	$1.33M (33' lot)
• Tax bill:	$2,468	$2,976	$5,382

Sources: Real Property Association of Canada, municipal websites, BC Assessment

Naughty or nice, you still get a $300 Visa® Prepaid Card.

We'll give you a FREE $300 Visa Prepaid Card when you bundle Optik™ TV and Internet on a 3 year term.*

Get Optik TV and Internet from $68/month.† Call **310-MYTV (6988)**.

Go to **telus.com/optik** or visit your **TELUS Store or Authorized Dealer.**

TELUS

the future is friendly®

TELUS STORE OR AUTHORIZED DEALER

Northwest

Beacon Hill Centre

Dalhousie Station

Market Mall

North Hill Centre

Northland Village Mall

207 14th St. NW

822 Crowfoot Cres. NW

Northeast

Country Hills Town Centre

CrossIron Mills

Deerfoot Mall

Marlborough Mall

Pacific Place

Sunridge Mall

1353 32nd Ave. NE

2520 23rd St. NE

Southwest

Banker's Hall

Bow Valley Square

Chinook Centre

The Core

Southcentre Mall

Westbrook Mall

Westhills Towne Centre

321 6th Ave. SW

1708 8th St. SW

2008 33rd Ave. SW

4623 Bow Trail SW

6039 Centre St. S

16061 MacLeod Trail S

Southeast

Deerfoot Meadows

Quarry Park

Shepard Centre

1061 Macleod Trail SE

1288 42nd Ave. SE

3012 17th Ave. SE

4410 50th Ave. SE

7845 Flint Rd SE

Airdrie

2145 Summerfield Blvd.

Strathmore

55 Wheatland Trail

331 3rd Ave.

Okotoks

31 Southridge Dr.

118 Elizabeth St.

Offer available until December 31, 2012, to residential customers who have not subscribed to TELUS TV or Internet service in the past 90 days. Minimum system requirements apply. Final eligibility for service will be determined by a TELUS representative. *A cancellation fee applies for early termination of the service agreement and will be $10 for TV services and $8 for Internet services, multiplied by the number of months remaining in the term. Visa Prepaid Card offer available while quantities last. Offer includes a $300 Visa Prepaid Card. Visa Prepaid Card is issued by Peoples Trust Company pursuant to a licence by Visa Inc. Cards are issued in connection with a loyalty, award or promotion program. Card is issued in the name of the account holder and is not transferable and cannot be issued to minors. Card does not have cash access and can be used at any merchants that accept Visa cards. Card is valid for up to 12 months; unused funds forfeit at midnight EST on the last day of the month of the valid-thru date, subject to applicable law. Country restrictions apply and are subject to change. Card terms, conditions and limitations apply; see MyPrepaidCenter.com/site/visa-univ-can for details. TELUS reserves the right to substitute an equivalent or better product without notice. Offer cannot be combined with promo prices. †Price includes Optik TV Essentials and Optik High Speed Internet. TELUS reserves the right to modify rates without notice. TELUS, the TELUS logo, Optik, Optik TV, Optik Internet and the future is friendly are trademarks of TELUS Corporation, used under licence. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2012 TELUS.

FURNITURE LIQUIDATION

BRAND NAMES FOR LESS!

90% IN STOCK

BUY IT NOW AND GET IT BEFORE CHRISTMAS!

LARGEST SELECTION IN WESTERN CANADA

Aspen Home, Magnussen, Ashley Furniture Natuzzi, Seally, Serta, Tempur-paedic and much much more. Leather Sectionals, Recliners, Bedroom suites, Dinettes, China Cabinets, coffee tables, art/pictures and area rugs....

HUNDREDS OF GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS

NO REASONABLE OFFERS WILL BE REFUSED ON FLOOR MODELS!

CROSSROADS FURNITURE GALLERY

2222 18th Ave NE Calgary
403-250-6660
Mon - Fri : 10am - 8:30pm
Sat : 10am - 7pm
Sun : 11am - 6pm

Const. Tom Page shows how easily thieves can break into parked cars to steal valuables. RYAN KESSLER/FOR METRO

Police warn of car break-ins

Operation Christmas Presence. Program launches in Calgary

RYAN KESSLER
calgary@metronews.ca

Police are reminding people in Calgary to think 'out of sight, out of mind.'

On Tuesday morning, the Calgary Police launched this year's Operation Christmas Presence campaign, which stresses the importance of protecting cars against break-ins.

Const. Tom Page showed how easily thieves break into vehicles. Using a small, sharp tool and a light tap, he was able to break into a car donated by the Alberta Motor Association (AMA).

"It takes two or three seconds to pop the window, grab what they can and they're gone," Page said.

Police also placed pamphlets on car windows at a Sobeys in northeast Calgary to warn drivers against auto theft.

Page suggested keeping any Christmas gifts out of plain view. Other commonly stolen items include laptops, MP3 players and GPS devices, according to police.

"In the past, we have seen increases [in theft from vehicles] starting with the Christmas rush on December 1 right through the Christmas season, until right after Boxing Day," Page said.

Most vehicle break-ins happen in July and August, but Christmas break-ins are usually for higher-value items, said Wendy Mah, crime prevention coordinator with the AMA.

"It just takes an extra five seconds as you're leaving to do a quick check around your car," Mah said.

By the numbers

6,324

The year-to-date number of theft-from-vehicle complaints in Calgary.

Royal Canadian Air Force

Sticky piston behind jet fighter crash: Investigation

A military investigation has concluded that a sticky piston probably caused the crash of a CF18 Hornet during an air show practice in southern Alberta.

The pilot was able to eject as the plane went down at the Lethbridge County Airport in July 2010.

But he was seriously injured because the aircraft was only 45 metres from the ground when he bailed.

The Royal Canadian Air Force says it is improving its air show training program. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police want to know. Have you seen this man?

Police are seeking the public's help in locating a suspect in a convenience story robbery.

The robbery took place around midnight on Nov. 26 when, according to police, a man entered the Mac's store in the 1900 block of 19 Street N.E., pulled out a knife and demanded cash and cigarettes.

Police are now seeking 21-year-old Kenneth Peter Nepoose on warrants of possession of a weapon and robbery.

Nepoose is described as aboriginal, 5-foot-7 and 143 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes.

Anyone with information about his whereabouts call police at 403-428-8787 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477. METRO

Police handout photo of robbery suspect Kenneth Peter Nepoose. CONTRIBUTED

Shock is etched on the faces of people outside a Portland, Ore.-area shopping mall Tuesday after a gunman wearing camouflage and body armour opened fire. BRUCE ELY/THE OREGONIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Shots after shots after shots …'

Pre-Christmas terror. Shoppers flee mall and Santa ducks for cover as gunman opens fire, killing two

A gunman wearing camouflage and body armour brought terror to a crowded Christmas shopping mall Tuesday.

Shoppers screamed and cried, grabbed their children and ran for the nearest doors as shot after shot rang out.

The mall's Santa was among those who ducked for cover.

Police said two people — and the gunman — died.

The gunman apparently killed himself, police said.

Kira Rowland said she was shopping at Macy's in the Clackamas Town Center when the shots started.

"All of a sudden you hear two shots, which sounded like balloons popping," Rowland said.

"Everybody got on the ground. I grabbed the baby from the stroller and got on the ground."

Rowland said she heard people screaming and crying.

"I put the baby back in the stroller and ran like hell," Rowland said. "It was awful. It was shots after shots after shots like a massacre."

Holli Bautista, 28, said she was shopping in Macy's for a Christmas dress.

"I heard people running and screaming and saying 'Get out, there's somebody shooting'," she said. Hundreds of shoppers and mall employees started running. Bautista said police officers, firefighters and emergency workers were pouring in.

"There's tons of ambulances lined up," she said.

Macy's employees Pam Moore and Austin Patty said the shooter was short, with dark hair, dressed in camouflage.

He had body armour and a rifle and was wearing a white mask, they said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I heard about 20 shots, and everyone hit the ground. That's when we all just ran."

Pam Moore,
Macy's employee

Not worth the risk?

Vancouver DJs ban prank calls

A Vancouver morning show has decided prank calls aren't worth the risk after the tragic fallout from an Aussie radio station's call to the London hospital where the Duchess of Cambridge was being treated for severe morning sickness.

Jack FM 96.9 morning show hosts Tara Jean Stevens and Kiah Tucker put an indefinite moratorium on prank calls after nurse Jacintha Saldanha was found dead, apparently by suicide, days after she was a victim of the prank.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Royal hoax. Could radio station face charges for prank-turned-tragedy?

Could the Australian radio station behind a royal hoax phone call face criminal charges for airing the conversation? The question was being discussed in legal circles Tuesday.

Two DJs from Sydney's 2DayFM who phoned an exclusive London hospital got confidential information about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge, who was there suffering from severe morning sickness.

A nurse who answered the call died later — leading to wide criticism of DJs Mel Greig and Michael Christian, who had pretended to be Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles.

The New South Wales state Surveillance Devices Act prohibits the broadcast of recorded private conversations without participants' permission, with violations punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to $58,000.

Privacy law expert Barbara McDonald said the Commercial Radio Code of Practice has a similar ban.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE
MIDNIGHT TOMORROW!
Now in Alberta!
Heart&Stroke calendar lottery
Early Bird Deadline Midnight December 13, 2012
EARLY BIRD PRIZE $50,000
WIN DAILY CASH PRIZES.
EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR!
ONLY $25
WIN CASH PRIZES
$3,000 Every Day
$10,000 Every Week
$20,000 Every Month
$25 EACH
3 FOR $70
6 FOR $125
Buy now.
1-855-478-4382 Ext. 800
Calgary 403-920-3645 Ext. 800
Edmonton 780-822-2430 Ext. 800
Order today at www.heartandstroke.ab.ca/calendar
EVERY CALENDAR SUPPORTS LIFE-GIVING HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.
HEART&™ STROKE FOUNDATION
Please visit www.heartandstroke.ab.ca/calendar or call 1-855-478-4382 for complete rules of play. Tickets may be sold and purchased only in Alberta. Ticket purchasers must be 18 years of age or older. Calendar Lottery Tickets are $25 each (81,347 Calendar Lottery Tickets available at this price), 3-packs for $70 each (40,051 3-packs for a total of 120,153 Calendar Lottery Tickets available at this price) or 6-packs for $125 each (32,250 6-packs for a total of 193,500 Calendar Lottery Tickets available at this price). The number of Calendar Lottery Tickets in each price category may change, however the total number of Calendar Lottery Tickets for sale, 395,000, will not. All draws will occur at Stride Management Corporation, 3950 – 12 Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 8H9 on January 3rd, 2013. The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, NWT & Nunavut, Lottery Licence #: 330279.
™Heart&Stroke Calendar Lottery and Heart & Stroke Foundation are trademarks of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. © Bank of Canada – bank note images used and altered with permission.

One Canadian will live to tell the tale if world ends

Space mission. Astronaut Chris Hadfield will slip the bonds of Earth just before Mayan doomsday prediction

If next week's end of the Mayan calendar really does happen to mark the end of the world, one of the few people to live beyond the apocalypse would be a Canadian.

Astronaut Chris Hadfield will blast off in a Russian space capsule next Wednesday and arrive at the International Space Station on the declared doomsday: Dec. 21. In a telephone conference Tuesday with Canadian reporters, Hadfield joked that he'll have a place from which to witness the globe-stopping spectacle.

On a more serious note, the 53-year-old space veteran said people want to feel their time on Earth has mattered and they want their lives to be significant in history. So, he said, what could possibly make time on Earth more significant for someone than if the world happened to end during their time?

The married father of three says that while his visit probably won't coincide with the end of the world — it will mark the end of a lifelong dream. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Back to Earth

Hadfield is due to return to Earth in mid-May after leaving the planet for at least five months.

- **Spacemates.** He will be travelling to the station with NASA astronaut Tom Marshburn and Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, after blasting off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, right, and crew members of the next expedition to the International Space Station — American Tom Marshburn, left, and Russian Roman Romanenko — show a small toy during preflight preparation on Friday at Kazakhstan's Baikonur cosmodrome. They will be taking the toy with them to the ISS.
GETTY IMAGES

Hunger strike. First Nation chief vows to 'die' to force treaty talks with feds

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan is offering to meet this week with a northern Ontario chief who embarked on a hunger strike Tuesday out of frustration with the federal government.

Chief Theresa Spence of the remote Attawapiskat First Nation launched her protest with a vow to "die" unless the Conservative government starts showing more respect to First Nations concerns and aboriginal treaties.

Spence was at the centre of a media storm last year because of a winter housing crisis in her community.

She says she wants the federal government to withdraw recent legislation which she claims was forced on aboriginals. She also wants it to reverse its decision to cut funding to First Nation organizations and communities.

Spence is staying in a cabin on an island in the Ottawa River while she goes without food. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ABM COLLEGE

Become a Health Care Aide in 5 Months

- We offer accredited programs, **Alberta Government** approved, that will lead to a more rewarding career
- Flexible class schedules: Mornings, Afternoons, Evenings and Weekends
- Funding available for those who qualify

Health Care Aide

your **FUTURE** starts here...

403.719.4300
3516 26 Street NE, Calgary AB
(Opp. Greenwood Inn)
info@abmcollege.com
www.abmcollege.com

Health Care Aide • Medical Office Asst • Massage Therapy
Business Admin • Accounting & Payroll

HAIR LOSS PROBLEM?
Find the solution to your hair loss problem today,
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
Natural Hair Regrowth With **FU YAN's** Special Treatment System & Chinese Traditional Premium Herbs. *(works for Men & Women)*
Reasonable, Faster, and Better Results!

*These actual before and after pictures will build your confidence in the FU YAN system. We will not deceive our customers with the use of false bald model's photographs and misleading advertising.

Many Albertan's have thanked **FU YAN**
EXCELLENT SUCCESS RATE
Some conditions apply
• No Medication • No Surgery
• No Side Effects • No Gimmicks

FU YAN NATURAL HAIR REGROWTH TREATMENT CENTRE™
CALGARY 403.230.0200 Suite 201, 2705 Centre St. NW
EDMONTON 780.474.8564 Suite 202, 10706, 124 st.

metro
CANADA'S FIRST NEWS APP IN NEWSTAND
Now available for iPad, iPhone and iPod touch!

JOCKEY®

big savings event

hurry in... sale on now!

SAVE 25%

ALL* JOCKEY® WOMEN'S INTIMATES & MEN'S UNDERWEAR
Reg. priced items only

16.99 & 18.99
Women's 3-pack *Classic/Elance* panties.
SEARS REG. $24 & $27

19.99 & 29.99
Men's *Classic* styles.
SEARS REG. $29 & $40

12.88
Women's waffle thermal separates.
SEARS REG. 19.88

12.99
ALL men's hanging underwear.
SEARS REG. $18

19.97
Women's 3-pack *Comfies* panties.

JOCKEY BOYS' AND GIRLS' UNDERWEAR NOW AVAILABLE AT SEARS

SALE PRICES VALID UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2012, while quantities last
*This savings offer excludes items with prices ending in .97 & .88 and currently advertised items.

Sears

NE123P112 © 2012. Sears Canada Inc.

Mali

PM forced out by military junta

Soldiers arrested Mali's prime minister and forced him to resign before dawn on Tuesday, showing that the military remains the real power in this troubled West African nation despite handing back authority to civilians after a coup in March.

The prime minister's ouster comes as the United Nations considers backing a military intervention in Mali, a once-stable country now in constant turmoil. The development raises questions about the viability of the operation, which would use the country's military in an attempt to take back Mali's north from Islamic extremists.

The military's constant meddling in state affairs has concerned the international community. The junta leaders have already been implicated in atrocities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Board games

Monopolizing the biggest city in Nigeria

Nigeria's largest city of Lagos is no boardwalk, but now Monopoly is taking inspiration from the city's sprawling chaos.

Officials unveiled a Lagos-themed Monopoly board game Tuesday in the city.

The most expensive property is not Boardwalk, but Lagos' Banana Island, which is an artificial island with mansions and exclusive apartments. The cheapest is Makoko, a waterfront slum of homes on stilts. There's still chance and jail, with the option of just visiting as always.

Hasbro Inc., which owns the rights to Monopoly, said Bestman Games Ltd. would distribute the Lagos version of the game under an exclusive license. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Judges boycott draft vote: Egypt

A supporter of President Mohammed Morsi on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt's judges Tuesday said that most of them would not oversee a nationwide referendum on a contentious draft constitution, as tens of thousands of opponents and supporters of the country's Islamist president staged rival rallies in Cairo, four days ahead of the vote.

The demonstrations and judges' boycott came hours after masked assailants set upon opposition protesters staging a sit-in at Tahrir Square, firing birdshot and swinging knives and sticks, according to security officials. They later said that five "hardened criminals" were arrested in connection with the attack.

Eleven protesters were wounded, the MENA state news agency said, citing a Health Ministry spokesman.

The violence served as a stark reminder of the stakes in Egypt's political battle over the disputed draft constitution, which goes to a nationwide referendum on Saturday. The charter has deeply polarized the nation and triggered some of the worst street violence since Morsi took office in June as Egypt's first freely elected president.

On one side of the divide, there is President Mohammed Morsi, his Muslim Brotherhood and ultra-orthodox Salafis, while on the other side there is a collection of liberals, leftists and Christians who claim the draft charter restricts freedoms and gives Islamists vast influence over the running of the country.

With tensions running high, the military appeared to insert itself into the fray when the MENA state news agency reported that Defence Minister Abdel-Fatah el-Sissi had called for talks on Wednesday to discuss how to resolve the crisis.

But the agency then quickly ran a second report, this time quoting an unnamed armed forces spokesman, who denied that el-Sissi had called for dialogue.

Later, the official Facebook page of the armed forces spokesman said el-Sissi was in fact extending an "invitation to the Egyptian family from all segments of the population during which no national dialogue will take place."

Whatever the exact nature of the invitation, it is the second time this week that the military has addressed the crisis, signalling its return to the political fray after handing over power in June to Morsi, Egypt's first civilian president. Earlier this week, it warned of disastrous consequences if the crisis over the draft constitution is not resolved.

A faction of judges loyal to Morsi has said it would not boycott the vote. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

90 %

Judges' Club chairman Ahmed el-Zind said that 90 per cent of the nation's judges would not oversee the Saturday vote.

Alberta Health Services

Last week of Dedicated Influenza Clinics in Your Area*

When you make influenza immunization an annual event, you protect yourself, your family, and our community.

Influenza Immunization

FALL INTO THE ROUTINE

Influenza immunization is available, free of charge, to all Albertans 6 months of age and older.

CALGARY CLINICS: NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 15*

Days:	Time:	Location:
Monday to Thursday	11:30 AM - 7:00 PM	Avenida Village 303 12445 Lake Fraser Drive SE
Friday & Saturday	9:30 AM - 5:00 PM	
Monday to Thursday	11:30 AM - 7:00 PM	Brentwood Village Mall 302 3630 Brentwood Road NW
Friday & Saturday	9:30 AM - 5:00 PM	
Monday to Thursday	11:30 AM - 7:00 PM	Northgate A154 495 36 Street NE
Friday & Saturday	9:30 AM - 5:00 PM	
Monday to Thursday	11:30 AM - 7:00 PM	Richmond Road Diagnostic Treatment Centre 1820 Richmond Road SW
Friday & Saturday	9:30 AM - 5:00 PM	
Monday to Thursday	11:30 AM - 7:00 PM	South Calgary Health Centre 31 Sunpark Plaza SE
Friday & Saturday	9:30 AM - 5:00 PM	

*NOTE: Dedicated Influenza Immunization Clinics in Calgary (listed above) will close end of day December 15, and will not be reopening.

Please bring Alberta Health Care Card. Short sleeves recommended.

For more info, including local clinic details, visit www.albertahealthservices.ca or call Health Link Alberta at 1.866.408.5465 (LINK).

MYSTIC EYE SPIRITUAL READINGS

57 YEARS EXPERIENCE

100% Guaranteed Results

Come in today for a better tomorrow

SPECIALIZING IN REUNITING LOVED ONES

REMOVES ALL BAD LUCK SPELLS AND NEGATIVE ENERGY

1/2 price SPECIAL

Palm • Tarot • Energy Readings

403.228.2258 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS OF LIFE

50% OFF all plans

UNLIMITED DATA + TALK + TEXT

$49.99 was ~~$79.99~~

Samsung C414Y

$99.99 was ~~$169.99~~

Samsung GALAXY Q

$129.99 was ~~$199.99~~

BlackBerry Curve 9320

Plans starting from $17.50/mo | UNLIMITED DATA + TALK + TEXT

mobilicity.ca

Taxes are extra. Handset prices are while quantities last. Dealer may sell handsets for less. Discount offer valid only at participating locations. 50% off offer is available for a limited time and valid for new activations only. Receive 50% off $25/$35 regular rate plans for 6 months or $45/$55 regular rate plans for 12 months while customer is on automatic monthly payments (preauthorized credit/ debit payment). Restrictions may apply on combining offers with other offers or promotions. Additional terms and conditions apply. Subject to change without notice. © 2012 Mobilicity. 'Mobilicity', 'Now that's smart', the Mobilicity designs and the Mobilicity logo are trademarks of Mobilicity. Other trademarks shown may be held by their respective owners. All rights reserved.

mobilicity™ Now that's **smart.**

Mobilicity Stores

Sunridge Mall
Northland Village Mall
Pacific Place Mall
Marlborough Mall
Deerfoot Mall
1518 Centre St NE, Unit 195
77 Castleridge Blvd NE
4805 17th Ave SE
Westbrook Mall
Centre Street and 7th Ave SW

Authorized Dealers

Great Tel Mobility: 4908 17th Ave SE, Unit 101
Express Computer Store: 9737 MacLeod Tr SW, Unit 210
Ascot Business Systems: 3716 61st Ave SE, Unit 104A
Stanley Park Grocery: 4649 MacLeod Tr SW
Speedbit: 5401 Temple Dr NE, Unit 106
Hing Wah Imports: 312 Centre St SE
IC Computers: 3715 51st St SW, Unit 122
Martindale Video Crossing: 83 Martindale Blvd NE
Magic Printing: 8330 MacLeod Trail SE

IT'S WHAT THEY WANT.

PURE REWARDS

Redeem any coupon to receive
20,000 Bonus Pure Points
with purchase of these CD's

$12.99 each

P!NK - THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

Price applies to the regular editions and is in effect December 10-23, 2012 at HMV Canada retail locations only. HMV reserves the right to limit quantities and cease offer at any time. Offer in effect December 10-23, 2012 only at HMV Canada locations. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase to redeem bonus points. Terms of use are subject to change and HMV reserves the right to terminate offer at any time. Facsimiles or reproductions are prohibited. Pure Points are calculated based on the net pre-tax purchase price (less applicable discounts) of the item. LIMIT: One Pure Point bonus per member. A valid pure membership must be presented at the time of purchase.

PURE BONUS CODE: 885302

$12.99 each

KE$HA - WARRIOR

Price applies to the regular editions and is in effect December 10-23, 2012 at HMV Canada retail locations only. HMV reserves the right to limit quantities and cease offer at any time. Offer in effect December 10-23, 2012 only at HMV Canada locations. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase to redeem bonus points. Terms of use are subject to change and HMV reserves the right to terminate offer at any time. Facsimiles or reproductions are prohibited. Pure Points are calculated based on the net pre-tax purchase price (less applicable discounts) of the item. LIMIT: One Pure Point bonus per member. A valid pure membership must be presented at the time of purchase.

PURE BONUS CODE: 885300

$12.99 each

PITBULL - GLOBAL WARMING

Price applies to the regular editions and is in effect December 10-23, 2012 at HMV Canada retail locations only. HMV reserves the right to limit quantities and cease offer at any time. Offer in effect December 10-23, 2012 only at HMV Canada locations. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase to redeem bonus points. Terms of use are subject to change and HMV reserves the right to terminate offer at any time. Facsimiles or reproductions are prohibited. Pure Points are calculated based on the net pre-tax purchase price (less applicable discounts) of the item. LIMIT: One Pure Point bonus per member. A valid pure membership must be presented at the time of purchase.

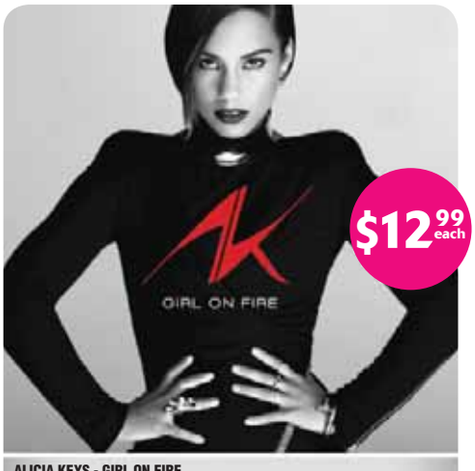
PURE BONUS CODE: 885301

$12.99 each

KELLY CLARKSON - GREATEST HITS • CHAPTER ONE

Price applies to the regular editions and is in effect December 10-23, 2012 at HMV Canada retail locations only. HMV reserves the right to limit quantities and cease offer at any time. Offer in effect December 10-23, 2012 only at HMV Canada locations. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase to redeem bonus points. Terms of use are subject to change and HMV reserves the right to terminate offer at any time. Facsimiles or reproductions are prohibited. Pure Points are calculated based on the net pre-tax purchase price (less applicable discounts) of the item. LIMIT: One Pure Point bonus per member. A valid pure membership must be presented at the time of purchase.

PURE BONUS CODE: 885294



$12.99 each

ALICIA KEYS - GIRL ON FIRE

Price applies to the regular editions and is in effect December 10-23, 2012 at HMV Canada retail locations only. HMV reserves the right to limit quantities and cease offer at any time. Offer in effect December 10-23, 2012 only at HMV Canada locations. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase to redeem bonus points. Terms of use are subject to change and HMV reserves the right to terminate offer at any time. Facsimiles or reproductions are prohibited. Pure Points are calculated based on the net pre-tax purchase price (less applicable discounts) of the item. LIMIT: One Pure Point bonus per member. A valid pure membership must be presented at the time of purchase.

PURE BONUS CODE: 885295

$12.99 each

CHRISTINA AGUILERA - LOTUS

Price applies to the regular editions and is in effect December 10-23, 2012 at HMV Canada retail locations only. HMV reserves the right to limit quantities and cease offer at any time. Offer in effect December 10-23, 2012 only at HMV Canada locations. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase to redeem bonus points. Terms of use are subject to change and HMV reserves the right to terminate offer at any time. Facsimiles or reproductions are prohibited. Pure Points are calculated based on the net pre-tax purchase price (less applicable discounts) of the item. LIMIT: One Pure Point bonus per member. A valid pure membership must be presented at the time of purchase.

PURE BONUS CODE: 885298

VISIT clubmetro.com TO ENTER

WIN A $1000 HMV GIFT CARD

No purchase necessary. Terms and conditions apply. For full contest details and terms and conditions, visit clubmetro.com

hmv

Michigan State Police surround the George W. Romney State Office Building in Lansing, Mich., on Tuesday while thousands of protesters rally outside the state capitol as lawmakers push final versions of right-to-work legislation.
CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Right-to-work' legislation may head to Canada

Union power.
Private member's bill regulating union dues now before Parliament

The federal opposition parties are warning that so-called "right-to-work" legislation that has passed in Michigan could soon come to Canada.

Thousands of people in that state protested Tuesday as the first of two laws designed to weaken union power passed in Michigan's Republican-dominated House of Representatives.

Opponents of the law, including U.S. President Barack Obama, say the law only gives workers the right to work for less pay.

Ottawa-area Conservative MP Pierre Poilievre has already been calling for new rules allowing union members to opt out of paying dues.

The proposal is similar to the legislation adopted in Michigan and 23 other states south of the border — as well as a private member's bill proposed earlier this year by Conservative backbencher Russ Heibert.

His financial transparency bill, which was debated Tuesday in the House of Commons and will likely go to a final vote Wednesday, would require unions to disclose how much money they spend on political activities.

Labour groups say it's simply a power grab.

"Unions already provide this information to their members," says the United Food and Commercial Workers union. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Opposition

"This is about going after, and it's about harassing, trade unions."
Interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae on Tory proposals to regulate union dues

Professional Institute *of*
MASSAGE THERAPY

JANUARY START DATES FOR

Relaxation Massage Certificate	Massage Therapy Diploma	Advanced Massage Therapy Diploma
250 HOURS	1000 HOURS	2200 HOURS

805 14TH STREET NW
PH 403.247.4319
PIMTMASSAGE.COM

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/PIMTMassage

comwave
Home Phone

CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD 2012

Home Phone
6 Months FREE

Your satisfaction is guaranteed or you pay nothing!

☑ All features FREE
☑ Keep your existing phone number

Unlimited Local
✓ Unlimited local calling
✓ 14 free features
$14.95 /month

Unlimited Canada
✓ 14 free features
✓ Unlimited Canada calling
$19.95 /month

Unlimited Global
✓ 14 free features
✓ Unlimited calling to almost 60 countries
$29.95 /month

Download our Comwave Mobile App
3 Days Free Trial

403-451-5800
www.comwave.net

While Comwave strives for accuracy in our advertising, Comwave reserves the right to correct any error in pricing or information at any time. The 6 Month Free Promotion is based on a 7YF term and includes a 30-Day Satisfaction Guaranteed period. If you are not 100% completely satisfied, you may terminate the service anytime within the Satisfaction Guaranteed Period with no further obligation. If you'd prefer your existing phone number from your current provider to Comwave within the first 30 days, you will receive an additional 3 months free for a total of 9 months free. HOME PHONE LINES: VoIP 911 has certain limitations versus traditional 911. All Unlimited Plans do not include calls to the Yukon, Nunavut, N.W.T., Alaska and Hawaii. Unlimited usage is governed by our Fair Usage policy to prevent abuse available at www.comwave.net/terms.

Defiant move. North Korea fires rocket in face of global condemnation

North Korea defied international warnings and fired a long-range rocket Wednesday, the second launch under its new leader and a clear sign Pyongyang is pushing forward with its quest to develop the technology needed to deliver a nuclear warhead.

Pyongyang's state media quickly claimed that the country had successfully put a peaceful satellite into orbit with its long-range Unha-3 rocket — the North's stated goal of the launch. But South Korea and Japan said they couldn't immediately confirm that.

South Korean soldiers watch a public TV reporting news about North Korea's rocket launch. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The launch was something of a surprise, as North Korea had indicated technical problems with the rocket and recently extended its launch window to Dec. 29.

A rocket expert said North Korea's rocket appeared to have improved on an April launch, which broke apart shortly after liftoff, but that it might be a day before U.S. officials could determine whether a North Korean satellite was circling the Earth.

The United Nations, Washington, Seoul and others see the launch as a cover for a test of technology for missiles that could be used to strike the United States.

South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told a national news conference that a South Korean destroyer detected the launch at 9:51 a.m., local time, and the first stage fell into the Yellow Sea about a minute later. It then flew over a South Korean island near the border with North Korea a minute later. It was then seen flying west of Okinawa at 9:58 a.m., and then disappeared from South Korean radars. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Privacy rights. British lawmaker committee slams 'snooper's charter'

British lawmakers on Tuesday demanded the government water down plans to keep track of phone calls, email and Internet activity — a bill critics dub a "snooper's charter."

The Communications Data Bill would force telecoms service providers to retain for a year records of all phone and email traffic and website visits, though not the content of calls and messages.

The data on billions of emails, tweets, texts, calls and Internet hits would be available to police forces, the National Crime Agency and the revenue and customs service. The bill as it stands gives the government the power to extend that access to other agencies.

Home Secretary Theresa May has called the proposals "sensible and limited" measures to prevent crime and terrorism.

But an all-party parliamentary committee scrutinizing the legislation said the draft bill was "overkill and ... much wider than the specific needs identified by the law enforcement agencies."

"There is a fine but crucial line between allowing our law-enforcement and security agencies' access to the information they need to protect the country, and allowing our citizens to go about their daily business without a fear, however unjustified, that the state is monitoring their every move," said the committee's chair, Conservative peer David Maclean. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Photo hack

B.C. man charged for hacking into pop star's computer

Vancouver police have charged Christopher David Long, 25, of Abbotsford, B.C., with hacking into pop superstar Carly Rae Jepsen's computer and stealing nude photos of her in March.

Long is charged with fraudulently obtaining telecommunications services, unauthorized use of a computer, mischief to obtain data, identity fraud and possession of stolen property.

Police say he surrendered on Friday at the Abbotsford Court House and has been released with conditions until his next court appearance on Jan. 4 in Abbotsford.

KATE WEBB/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Santa filling out underwater wish list

Dressed in a Santa Claus outfit, a diver feeds sardines at the Coex Aquarium in Seoul on Tuesday. Christmas is one of the biggest holidays in South Korea, where more than half of the population are Christians. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stolen iPhone's app captures alleged thief

iFoiled. Owner is sent photo and location of alleged thief via email when they attempt to unlock the phone

It's a cool app that may catch a sticky-fingered iPhone thief in Britain.

A woman is wanted for questioning after she unwittingly took a picture of herself with a stolen iPhone.

Police in Sussex have released a photo of the woman.

They aren't calling her a culprit yet.

"We don't know that the woman is the person who stole the camera, but she obviously has had some connection with it in the meantime and I'd like to speak to her about it," said Sussex officer Gavin Crute in a news release.

The phone had been stolen from the Coalition nightclub in Brighton, East Sussex earlier this month.

This woman is wanted for questioning in the case of a stolen iPhone in Britain. COURTESY SUSSEX POLICE

The photo was taken from a different location.

The owner had an app installed that takes a picture of anyone trying to unlock the phone and then sends the information back to them via email.

The app, identified by some media outlets to be IGotYa, is not available from the official Apple store.

The camera is activated when a wrong password is entered on the keypad.

Crute said that not only does the app photograph someone trying to unlock the phone, but it maps their location.

"We know where and when the photo was taken and it appears to be in a vehicle with quite a large sunroof," Crute said.

Apple has a free app called Find my iPhone, which shows a stolen phone's approximate location.

It does not, however, take a picture.

A similar story was told in New York last year, when a Queens woman was robbed while walking along a street.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nelson Mandela receives treatment for lung infection

Past troubles. The former South African leader has a history of lung problems, including falling ill with tuberculosis in 1988

Former South African president Nelson Mandela has been admitted to a hospital in Pretoria.
SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Military doctors are treating South Africa's former president Nelson Mandela for a recurring lung infection, an ailment the 94-year-old anti-apartheid leader remains susceptible to because of his age and his 27 years in prison.

Government officials acknowledged for the first time Tuesday that the illness forced soldiers to admit Mandela to a military hospital on Saturday, though they said the politician was responding to treatment.

Mandela fought off a similar infection in 2011 and once contracted tuberculosis while imprisoned. Medical experts say respiratory illnesses like pneumonia striking a man his age are a serious matter that require care and monitoring.

"They call pneumonia 'the old man's friend' because it is the thing that ultimately carries many people off," said Dr. Peter Openshaw, the director of the Center for Respiratory Infection at Imperial College's National Heart and Lung Institute in London.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suicides focus attention on Spain's homeowners

Elizabeth Marquez, from Ecuador, reacts before her eviction in Barcelona, Spain, on Tuesday. Spain approved a two-year suspension of evictions for some needy homeowners unable to pay their mortgages, but activists said the government failed to address the larger issue of how those who give up their homes may still carry debt, sometimes for the rest of their lives. Public attention on the issue intensified greatly in recent weeks after two homeowners facing eviction committed suicide. MANU FERNANDEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABM COLLEGE

Health Care Aide
Medical Office Asst.
Massage Therapy
Business Admin
Accounting & Payroll

We offer accredited programs, **Alberta Government** approved
Flexible class schedules: **Mornings, Afternoons, Evenings and Weekends**

403.719.4300 | www.abmcollege.com
3516 26 Street NE, Calgary AB (Opp. Greenwood Inn)

Sears

Today Only!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

GREAT DEAL!
29.99 Each

LIZ CLAIBORNE®, JONES&CO, JONES STUDIO®, Nygard®, KERRYBROOKE®/MD & STUDIO HILARY RADLEY FASHIONS
Reg. & clearance priced items 89.99 and under

SAVE 70%
19.99
STERLING SILVER TRIPLE 'A' CUBIC ZIRCONIA EARRINGS
Your choice of 3 colours.
SEARS REG. 69.99

SAVE 55%
Jessica®/MD diamond, cubic zirconia, gemstone & pearl jewellery and jewellery boxes.*

60 days of deals
Celebrating 60 years of Wishes
Get your daily deals here until Dec. 24th!
Sign up at sears.ca/deals
OR, text 'GIFT' to 38667†

See why today is worth celebrating.
Scan this code or visit sears.ca/thegift

*This savings offer excludes items with prices ending in .97 and Canada's Best items with prices ending in .00.
†Standard text messaging rates apply. Please see www.sears.ca/privacy for our privacy policy.

NE123P212 © 2012. Sears Canada Inc.
sears.ca

Conditions worsen in Syrian refugee camps as winter looms

Survival. Basic necessities are scarce, from blankets and food to toilets and medical supplies

Abdullah Ahmed, 10, suffered burns in a Syrian airstrike. He stands outside his family's tent in a village for displaced Syrians on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The tent camp sheltering Syrians uprooted by their country's brutal civil war has lost the race against winter: The ground under white tents is soaked in mud, fights erupt over scarce blankets and volunteer doctors routinely run out of medicine for coughing, runny-nosed children.

The 21-month-old battle to bring down President Bashar Assad has already forced some three million Syrians from their homes, according to a new estimate, and cold, wet winter weather is making life increasingly unbearable for the displaced.

Many of the roughly 12,000 people seeking refuge in the tent camp near the Syrian village of Atmeh on the Turkish border fled with just the clothes on their backs, running from intensifying bombing raids by the Syrian air force in recent months.

A 10-year-old boy, Abdullah Ahmed, walked around the camp with a bandaged head and hands after suffering burns during an airstrike on his home.

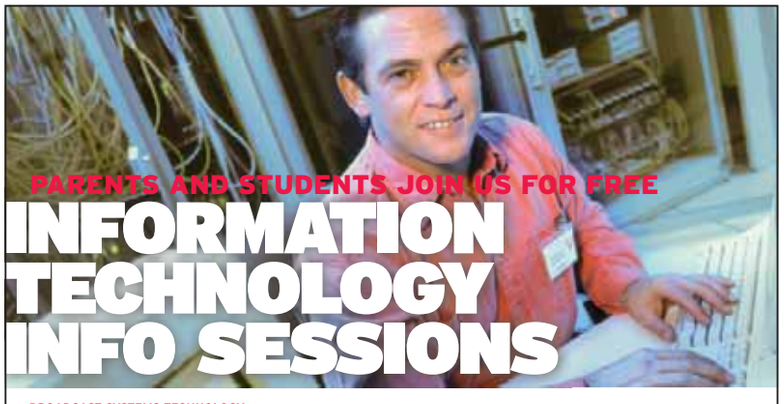
"I have nothing left except the mercy of God," said Mariam Ghraibeh, a 60-year-old war widow whose home in the town of Kafr Awaid, about 140 kilometres to the south, was destroyed in an airstrike a month ago. Ghraibeh and her family of 15 now huddle in tents, sleeping on thin mattresses on cold plastic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. recognition

An elevated status

President Barack Obama declared Syria's main opposition group the sole "legitimate representative" of its country's people Tuesday, deeming the move "a big step" in the international diplomatic efforts to end Syrian President Bashar Assad's embattled regime.

Obama said the newly formed Syrian Opposition Council "is now inclusive enough" to be granted the elevated status, paving the way for greater U.S. support. Recognition of the council as the sole representative of Syria's diverse population brings the U.S. in line with Britain, France and several of America's Arab allies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



BROADCAST SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY
Looking for a unique career that combines your resourcefulness with your technical expertise? The Broadcast Systems Technology program at SAIT Polytechnic is the perfect answer as it focuses on the technical aspects of the broadcast industry, and qualifies graduates for well-paying jobs that are in high-demand. Get trained on emerging digital systems so you can start a career you will love in the exciting world of audio and video technologies! Parents and prospective students are invited to a Free Information Session to learn more about SAIT Polytechnic's Broadcast Systems Technology program.

Join us on Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 pm in Room E114 in the John Ware Building.
Call 403.284.8081 or Email bxst.info@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

EXPLORATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Are you interested in an oil and gas career that combines geology and geophysics and computer science? If so, then SAIT's two year, Exploration Information Technology diploma program is for you.

Join us on Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 pm in Room MA118 in the Heritage Hall Building.
Call 403.210.5753 or Email expt.info@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES
Now is the time to train in one of SAIT's accelerated, skills-based FAST-TRACK Information Technology programs and launch your career as an IT professional in just 8 months! Seats are available for the following programs:
• Business Intelligence: Data Analysis and Reporting
• Database Administrator • Technology Infrastructure Management
• Network Technician • Object-Oriented Software Developer
• Web Developer

Join us on Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 pm in Room MD321 in the Stan Grad Centre.
Call 403.284.7149 or Email fast-track@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES
FURTHER YOUR PASSION
SAIT POLYTECHNIC

Receptionist/Sales Coordinator

Reporting to the Office & Sales Admin Manager - Western Canada, the right candidate for this 10 month contract position will carry out a range of administrative and operational tasks related to the daily operations of the business in the Metro Calgary operation. As well as provide operational and executive support to the Sales Manager, Metro Calgary and any additional administrative support as directed.

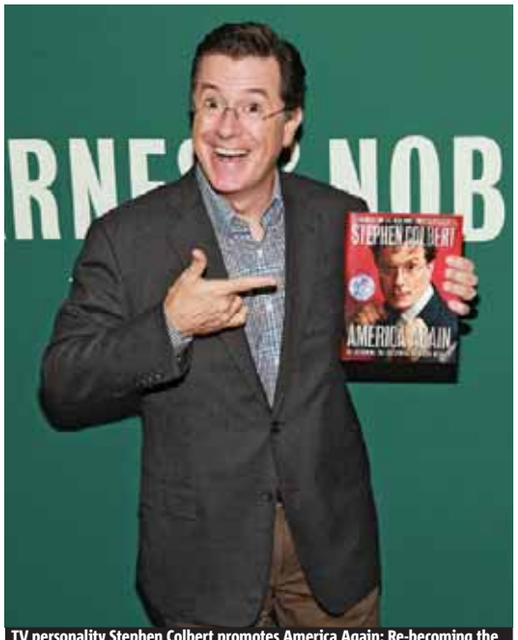
PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Responsible for all administrative projects as assigned
- Responsible for the general daily office operations
- Assist in maintenance and control of the office budget
- Oversee the monthly purchases of office supplies and send required accruals to Metro English Canada
- Recommend and manage office furniture purchases, office supply purchases and all maintenance issues/requests
- General reception duties and Customer service requests
- Oversee couriers and mail; both incoming and outgoing
- Responsible for prompt office maintenance and repair work
- Supervise the implementation of new office systems from various shared service departments
- Review and update health and safety policies; coordinate with JHSC
- Responsible for maintaining accurate staff lists and directories
- Answering telephones, call screening and forwarding
- Deal with complex queries and complaints, by email, phone and in person
- Greet visitors and guests

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:
- 2-3 years of demonstrated success in a similar role
- Great organizational and time management skills
- Outstanding communication skills
- Intermediate knowledge of Microsoft Office - Word, Excel & Outlook
- Attention to details and thoroughness in the execution of tasks
- Must be a team player with a great, and we mean great, sense of humor

IInterested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than December 19, 2012. PLEASE QUOTE: "Receptionist/Sales Coordinator - Calgary" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

Windsor BIA steps up campaign to woo Colbert



TV personality Stephen Colbert promotes America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't, in which he refers to Windsor, Ont., as "the Earth's rectum" in October in New York City. GETTY IMAGES FILE

'Earth's rectum' furor.

With new video, locals make last-ditch attempt at convincing comedian to host holiday parade

LUKE SIMCOE
luke.simcoe@metronews.ca

With less than four days to go until its inaugural Santa Claus parade, the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association is hoping a new video will convince Stephen Colbert to play host.

Filmed by Marshall Sfalcin and starring BIA chair Larry Horwitz, the video is the latest missive in a campaign that began last month when Colbert responded on his show to the brouhaha over his referencing of Windsor, Ont., as "the Earth's rectum" in his new book America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't. (He told viewers he could have just as easily been talking about Winnipeg.)

Since then, Horwitz has been trying to get the American comedian to cross the border and serve as the grand marshal of the new holiday parade.

Although filmed "entirely in Windsor," the video tells the tale of Horwitz's journey to New York to deliver a box full of Canadian goodies to Colbert. Along the way, he encounters rude baristas and has a run-in with security at Colbert's Comedy Central studios.

The downtown Santa Claus Parade is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday. To date, Colbert has not responded to the BIA's request.

Quoted

"We've been given a clean bill of health."

Larry Horwitz, chair of the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association, who claims a 'geoproctologist' has examined Windsor and found that the city isn't the Earth's rectum after all.

Online

Watch the video at metronews.ca.

Facebook. Hunger Games tops pop-culture mentions in 2012

The Hunger Games, the teen survival movie based on the Suzanne Collins book of the same name, tops the list of the most talked about pop culture events by Canadians on Facebook in 2012, the social media network says.

"Most talked about" means mentioned in status updates or posted as a video or story link. The company does not disclose numbers, only rankings.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Top 5 talked about

- **No. 1** Hunger Games film
- **No. 2** The Avengers film
- **No. 3** Television show The Walking Dead
- **No. 4** The Feb. 11 death of Whitney Houston
- **No. 5** Mitt Romney

Canada Post. Holiday rush brings onslaught of mail — and griping

It's supposed to be a time when festive packages are delivered with care and yuletide greeting cards are opened with glee.

But for some Canada Post customers — and the postal employees who have to deal with their complaints — it's not exactly the hap-happiest time of the year. As the volume of letters and parcels being delivered by the post office reaches massive levels over the holidays so, too, does the griping.

When Canada Post issued a release on its Facebook page Dec. 3, urging people to check international send-by dates for Christmas packages, there were dozens of not-so-kind responses from people bitterly upset about lost parcels, late deliveries and high postage costs.

Faster technology has made it easier to locate packages, but has also raised people's expectations of how quickly their goods should arrive, said Canada Post spokeswoman Anick Losier. "Our No. 1 call to the customer service is 'Where's my parcel?' — the day before it's due," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Economic status. Poorest Canadians see few gains in absolute income

Income inequality in Canada has remained steady since 1998 according to the traditional benchmark, but absolute dollar gains by the country's highest earners have far outstripped the gains by those at the bottom, a report by TD Bank said Tuesday.

Even though the poorest saw a slightly larger percentage gain in income, absolute gains — the amount of dollars in a person's pocket —tell a different story, said TD Bank chief economist Craig Alexander.

"Although the traditional benchmark of income inequality isn't showing an increase, the absolute levels of income matter enormously," he said.

After a 20 per cent increase, the after-inflation level of income of those in the bottom 20 per cent increased to only $15,200 in 2010 from $12,700 in 1998. Meanwhile, at the high end of the income scale, the top 20 per cent have seen an 18 per cent increase in income since 1998, but that translates into $26,700 to bring their income to $171,900.

"So part of the issue around income inequality is the fact that households at the low end of the income scale have extremely absolute low levels of income, and that's a major challenge," Alexander said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

$15,200

The after-inflation level of income of those in the bottom 20 per cent increased to only $15,200 in 2010 from $12,700 in 1998.

Market Minute

DOLLAR
101.40¢
(+0.08¢)

TSX
12,282.36 (+51.88)

OIL
$85.79 US (+23¢)

GOLD
$1,709.60 US (-$4.80)

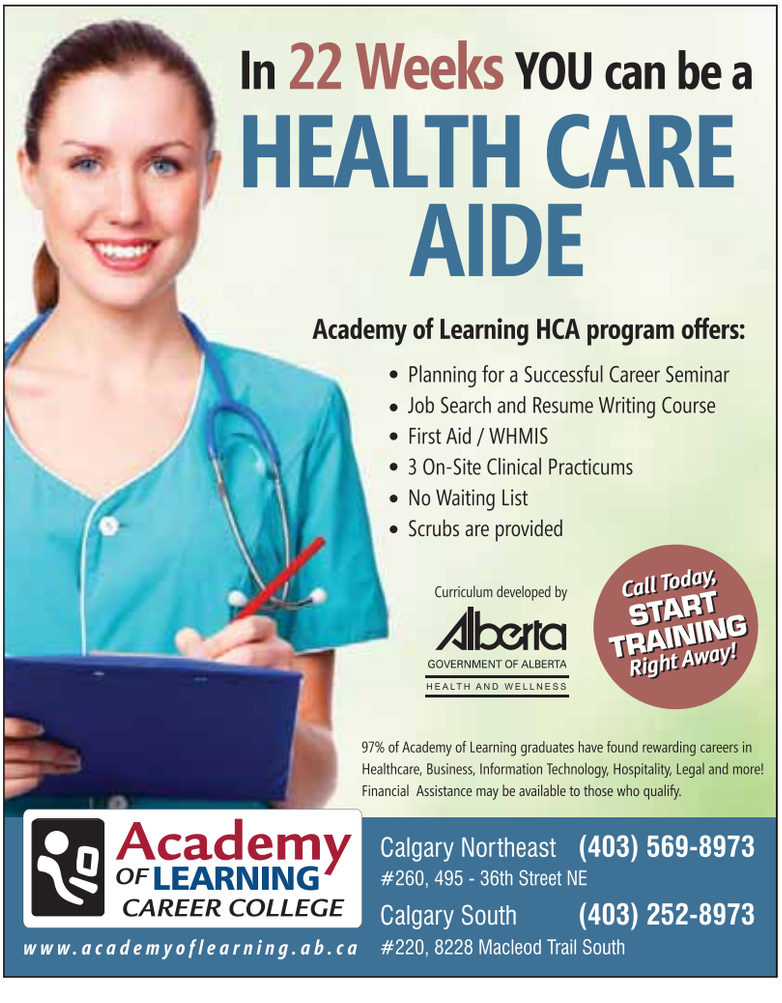
Natural gas: $3.41 (-5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,248.44 (+78.56)

Read metro your money **every Tuesday for financial tips, trends and advice.**
Only in Metro. News worth sharing.

GOOD NEWS TODAY

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.
(Romans 8:28)

GOODNEWSTODAY.CA


In 22 Weeks YOU can be a
HEALTH CARE AIDE
Academy of Learning HCA program offers:
• Planning for a Successful Career Seminar
• Job Search and Resume Writing Course
• First Aid / WHMIS
• 3 On-Site Clinical Practicums
• No Waiting List
• Scrubs are provided
Curriculum developed by
Alberta
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA
HEALTH AND WELLNESS
Call Today, START TRAINING Right Away!
97% of Academy of Learning graduates have found rewarding careers in Healthcare, Business, Information Technology, Hospitality, Legal and more! Financial Assistance may be available to those who qualify.
Academy OF LEARNING CAREER COLLEGE
www.academyoflearning.ab.ca
Calgary Northeast (403) 569-8973
#260, 495 - 36th Street NE
Calgary South (403) 252-8973
#220, 8228 Macleod Trail South

CAGE CLOSED ON IKEA MONKEY

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Is the monkey over yet?

For 15 minutes, the Ikea Monkey was the most famous monkey in the world, the toast of everyone from Warren Kinsella to Anderson Cooper.

There he was last Sunday, larking around a Toronto Ikea parking lot in his cute little shearling coat and diaper, searching for the meatball special, distracting us for one brief monkeyshines moment, from the end of the world (Dec. 21) or the fiscal cliff (Jan. 1). If the Mayans don't get us, the U.S. Congress will.

I mean, come on. How could you resist the combination of a place where you buy rättviken sinks and ektorp sofa beds with a baby monkey named Darwin who brushes his teeth before he goes to bed and wears a Wizard of Oz-winged monkey costume for Halloween?

It was all fun until the authorities stepped in. They confiscated the coat and sent him to Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, north of Toronto. Arguably the story gets better. Now, Darwin, stripped of his raiment, has to learn to be a real monkey all over again. He'll have to bond with the other monkeys, and he'll have to do it without his 'nuck-'nuck (baby pacifier).

He's a caged animal

So that's it for Darwin, although he does leave a Twitter account and Facebook page behind, but he'll have to update his status from "free-ramblin'" to "caged."

Darwin's owner is distraught. Darwin is, after all, seven months old, and needs his mommy, even if his mommy has a little trouble telling one primate species from another. Now Darwin has gone to live on the back of some other confused primate. Sanctuary staff are hoping that will be Sweet Pea, a baboon rescued from a roadside zoo.

As you might imagine, Sweet Pea has issues, but she loves to nurture things — kittens, fake fur, naugahyde, so cute little Darwin is just the thing.

The owner is a lawyer, and, naturally, she's considering legal action to get her monkey back. When you're a hammer, everything looks like a nail, but she should be careful what she sues for.

Cute little baby rhesus monkeys grow into cute, 50-centimetre-tall adults that carry diseases and fling their feces. She might want to leave Darwin up in Sunderland, cavorting with the lemurs (cue King Julien doing the morning exercise routine: "I like to move it, move it!")

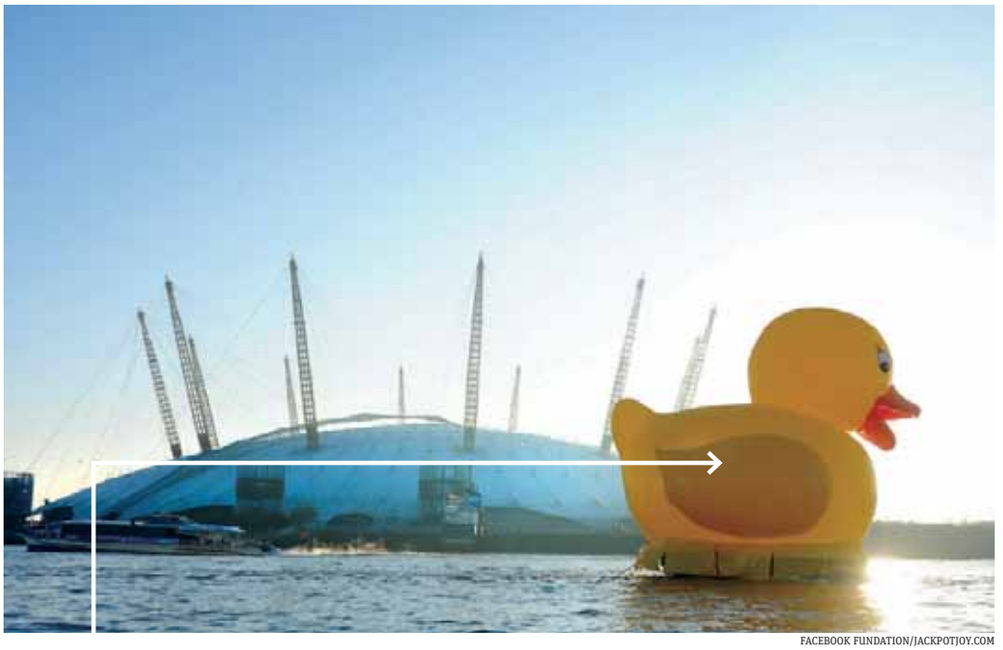
So that's it for Darwin, although he does leave a Twitter account and Facebook page behind, but he'll have to update his status from "free-ramblin'" to "caged."

As for the rest of us, we'll find some other Internet meme to distract us. But it will be a long time before that poignant picture of that little guy wandering around the Ikea parking lot looking for the ball room fades from memory.

A long time. At least another 15 minutes.

Darwin will have to adjust to living like a monkey at Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, Ont. NIAMH SCALLAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rubber ducky, you're the big one



FACEBOOK FUNDATION/JACKPOTJOY.COM

Duck tales

Massive duck sails through London

Londoners were treated to an unusual spectacle Tuesday as a giant 15-metre rubber duck floated down the River Thames.

The oversized bath toy got special treatment as the iconic Tower Bridge opened to allow it to sail through. The gigantic bird was launched to publicize a $400,000) bursary to encourage Brits to have more fun. METRO

According to research commissioned by the FUNdation, British adults laugh 7.2 times a day on average, but psychologists say we should laugh 15 times a day for optimal health and happiness.

LEWIS WHYLD/PA WIRE/PRESS ASSOCIATION IMAGES

Rubber ducks in the past

Bath toys outline ocean currents

In 1992, a container with 29,000 plastic bath toys fell off a cargo ship in the Pacific Ocean and broke open. The rubber ducks eventually washed up on shores in Japan, Hawaii and North America.

By studying the ocean currents, oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer correctly predicted their trip via the Northwest Passage to Great Britain. METRO

Duck dimensions

- **Weight.** 500 kilograms.
- **Size.** 15 metres tall and 18 metres wide.
- **Construction.** Made by an eight-person team, who spent more than 800 hours creating patterns, cutting and welding the sections together to produce the air-tight structure before it took to the water.

Quoted

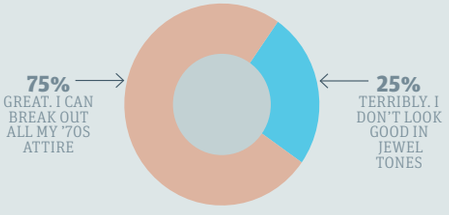
"We now want people to send us their own entries of wacky things they'd like to do, and we'll provide funding for the best ones."

Barbara Windsor, actress and patron of Jackpotjoy.com's new Facebook FUNdation bursary

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Emerald is Pantone's colour of the year for 2013. How does that grab you?



Twitter

@jesrossouw: Just saw a lady give her mittens to a homeless person, hope has been restored #yyc

@ramsey_h: +15s should have a passing lane #yyc

@oncewasazoo: For someone who grew up in the west, this new LRT is like a dream #dtinten #westLRT #yyc

@Zap_Davids: Kim Kardashian is coming to #YYC on January 4. Come on Mayan Apocalypse!

@guiltyx: Temperatures shifted from -16 to +5 in two days. Thanks, migraine, for the early warning system #blarg #chinook #yyc

@sonyabean: WHEN THE HE– DID THEY BUILD AN #IHOP IN SHAWNESSY?!?! I know where I'm going this weekend. #YYC

metro

President Bill McDonald • **Vice-President & Group Publisher, Metro Western Canada** Steve Shrout • **Editor-in-Chief** Charlotte Empey • **Deputy Editor** Fernando Carneiro • **National Deputy Editor, Digital** Quin Parker • **Managing Editor, Calgary** Darren Krause • **Managing Editor, News & Business** Amber Shortt • **Managing Editor, Life & Entertainment** Dean Lisk • **Vice-President, Sales** Quin Millar • **Sales Manager** Blaine Schlechter • **Distribution Manager** David Mak • **Vice-President, Business Ventures** Tracy Day • **Vice-President, Creative** Jeff Smith • **Vice-President, Marketing & Interactive** Jodi Brown • **Vice-President, Finance** Phil Jameson • **METRO CALGARY** Unit 120, 3030 - 3 Avenue NE, Calgary, AB T2A 6T7 • **Telephone:** 403-444-0136 • **Fax:** 403-539-4940 • **Advertising:** 403-444-0136 • adinfocalgary@metronews.ca • **Distribution:** calgary_distribution@metronews.ca • **News tips:** calgary@metronews.ca • **Letters to the Editor:** calgaryletters@metronews.ca

Never too late for a series spinoff

Television. Some of the best shows of our generation could still stand the test of time if they were converted into a new series

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Boy Meets World could meet Girl Meets World in a revisiting of the once-popular series. HANDOUT

Time has a way of stoking retro fever and nostalgia mining has a deep drill bit. It used to be conventional wisdom that you had a limited window to spinoff a TV show and breathe new life into departing characters before their cache cooled.

Frasier's 11 season run got started the same year Cheers stopped serving drinks and Buffy's vampire boy-toy Angel staked a claim on his own show while the slayer was still only halfway through stabbing Sunnydale's undead population.

The 1990s coming-of-age comedy Boy Meets World has been off the air for a dozen years, but it looks like this TV graveyard corpse is about to get reanimated with original stars Ben Savage and Danielle Fishel on board.

Girl Meets World will revisit Cory and Topanga in the present day where they now have a 13-year-old daughter. This development leaves us wondering; what other long-ago put-to-pasture series are ready to wake up and smell the future?

Steering Urkel back to fame

With Big Bang Theory garnering stratospheric ratings, it's clear there's more room for geeks in primetime. Fashion finally caught up with Steve Urkel's once gauche cardigans and plaid button downs that used to set him apart from the crowd.

The former TGIF mainstay is decidedly hipster in modern times, and adulthood has ironed out his voice's squeakiness so he doesn't even need his nerd-suppressing alter ego Stefan to make the ladies swoon.

The Pilot: Hired as the CEO of Virgin Galactic, Urkel struggles to keep one foot on the ground in Chicago where he and Laura are raising a brood of wily little Urkelos and the other in orbit catering to the whims of wealthy space tourists. Good thing his father-in-law Carl Winslow is still around to steer him in the right direction.

Friend to an Acquaintance

Watching present day Monica, Chandler and company reunite at Central Perk and yuk it up would be interesting television for about five minutes. Rather than dwell on past relationships already fleshed out over the course of 200-plus episodes, Acquaintances breaks new ground by focusing on the still loosely intertwined lives of the core cast of Friends. The hitch is they play caricatures of their slightly past-their-prime real-life selves a la Matt Leblanc on Episodes.

The Pilot: Courtney Cox begs Jennifer Aniston to appear on Cougar Town, which in the show's universe has switched networks once again and is hanging on by a thread. Jen relents, but not before making Courtney alphabetize her stack of Sexiest Woman Alive magazine appearances and polish her Golden Globe.

The XY Files

Flirty David Duchovny is much more palatable than spooky Duchovny. Besides, the Californication star is way more believable unzipping little black dresses and puffing post coitus cigs than chasing little grey men and attempting to see the truth behind smoking man's kabuki theatre.

The Pilot: A mysterious pandemic has winnowed the world's male population down to just 10 per cent, leaving virile men in high demand. Working in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control who discovered the virus was man-made, the FBI responds by opening the XY Files, a new task force intent on apprehending the culprits. Groaning sci-fi fans will be placated by the presence of Gillian Anderson's shrewd disapproving gaze as well as fanboy jaw droppers Katee Sackoff and Summer Glau thrown in for good measure.

WINTER SALE ON NOW
HURRY IN STORE FOR ITEMS
FROM $7 IN ALL DEPARTMENTS!
H&M

Harry Styles

One Direction isn't too keen on Swift's private jet

Taylor Swift's fledging romance with Harry Styles appears to already be causing strife among his One Direction bandmates.

So what's got them all worked up? Travel arrangements, it turns out.

After the band's stay in New York, Styles reportedly headed back to England with Swift on her private jet while the rest of the band travelled separately, according to E! News.

"The rest of the band were a bit annoyed about the whole thing," a source says. "They took a Virgin commercial flight and there were tons of spare seats on the jet. They were a bit miffed that Harry chose to go with her instead of them. They had just finished a huge concert in New York and all of them were on a high. The fact that he left them to travel solo irritated them a bit."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

A look back: Celebrity engagements of 2012

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Despite the fact that every single person in Hollywood gets divorced, these true-believers decided to throw caution to the wind and become betrothed. We look at the big ones:

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie
The deets: Pitt proposed to Jolie, his longtime girlfriend with whom he has six children, in April with a $500,000,16-carat rock. "It seems to mean more and more to our kids," he says about finally tying the knot, to Us Weekly.
Wedding date: Ha. Like they'd tell us.

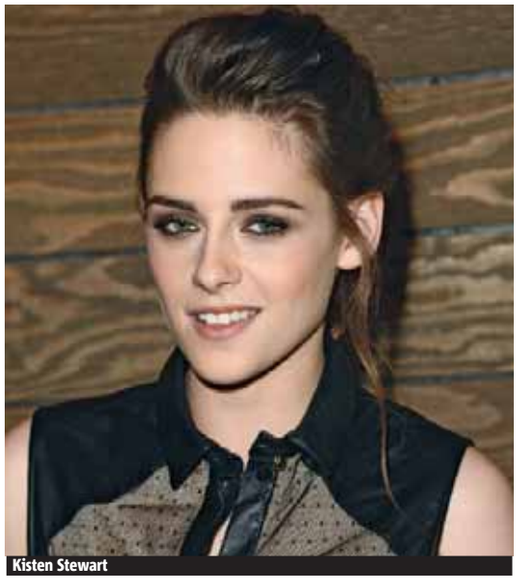
Justin Theroux and Jennifer Aniston
The deets: The two actors, who met on the set of Wanderlust, got engaged in New York City on Aug. 10. Theroux proposed with an eight-carat ring, worth an estimated $500,000.
Wedding date: Again, we'll never know until they sell their photos to the magazine of their choice.

Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus
The deets: They might be young (he's 22, she's 20) but that doesn't mean they won't last forever (actually, yes, yes it does). The Hunger Games actor proposed to Cyrus in May, three years after they started dating, with a 3.5-carat diamond ring.
Wedding date: Eh, you REALLY think this one is going to happen?

Hilaria Thomas and Alec Baldwin
The deets: The two love birds got engaged in April, less than a year after they first met.
Wedding date: It actually already happened (Baldwin moves fast). The two were wed in June in New York City.

Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger
The deets: The two got engaged in August, surprising a lot of fans (and gossip columnists) who didn't even know they were dating. "Things just clicked real quick," Kroeger, the lead singer of Nickleback, told a radio station about Lavigne.
Wedding date: I'm kind of getting the vibe they'll skip the wedding and just go straight to procreating Canadian royalty.

Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell
The deets: The two got engaged in January. They met while starring in a Green Day music video; they broke up when she moved on with Marilyn Manson and reconnected when her engagement to the goth rocker ended.
Wedding date: Already happened! They were married on Halloween in California. "It was a small ceremony with close family and friends," said her rep in a statement.


Kisten Stewart

Stewart is cool with getting naked, OK?

Kristen Stewart is sick and tired of all the attention her nude scenes in On the Road are getting. "I do hate also when people go, 'Oh wow, great performance. So brave,'" she tells the Huffington Post. "Because I'm naked? That's annoying. But at the same time, if that's what they're focusing on, then On the Road probably isn't for them anyway." Stewart is a diehard fan of the Jack Kerouac novel on which the film is based, which meant she had no hesitation about doing the more revealing scenes. "This book celebrates being alive and it celebrates being human, and if you want to cover up and deny any aspect of that, you are denying the spirit of the book."

Pamela Anderson in deep over taxes

Pamela Anderson is in hot water with the IRS. Two tax liens were recently filed against the former Baywatch star totaling more than $370,000, according to TMZ.

The IRS claims Anderson owes just over $250,000, with the rest coming from a filing by the state of California. Still, the total is something of an improvement for Anderson, who was added to California's list of the top 250 debtors in 2010, when she reportedly owed more than $493,000.

Pamela Anderson

Twitter

@kirstiealley
Dear PA who rang the gate with a script at 3 AM..notice mailbox to the left of driveway...NOTICE the actress with a Glock in upstairs window

@NiallOfficial
Sittin at home! Bored t death!

@Mruff221
I got a text from Joss Whedon the other day. Sounds like he is writing some very interesting stuff for Banner and his alter ego The Hulk.

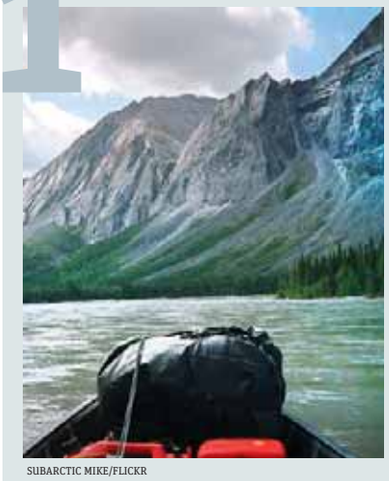
@AlbertBrooks
By not tweeting I have gained substantially more followers.

It's coming to Canada, and it's staying here too. Cheers could be heard in households throughout the country when it was announced that The Amazing Race Canada would follow Canadians traipsing the true north strong and free while competing in challenges. Debuting next summer, producers promise the show will be a love letter to Canada, but haven't revealed which areas of the country will be featured. Here are five worthy location suggestions, along with challenge ideas too.

MAE BOWRING
life@metronews.ca

5 spots the Canadian Amazing Race should hit

1 Canoeing the South Nahanni River



SUBARCTIC MIKE/FLICKR

Breathtaking mountain ranges, falls twice the height of Niagara, hot springs and gorgeous flora and fauna can all be viewed along the Nahanni in the North West Territories. Contestants would be challenged with trying to stay afloat through rapids as they navigate the river's four canyons.

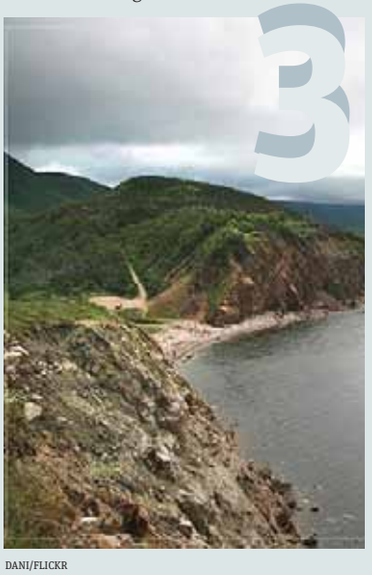
2 Mountain Biking in Whistler

Skiers and snowboarders flock to the snow-capped mountains of British Columbia in the winter months, but during the summer, it's all about biking. With courses that feature sharp turns, rugged terrain and stomach-in-your-throat drops, it's not for the faint of heart, but it's adrenaline-packed fun. This challenge is easy. The team who makes it to the bottom of the course first in one piece wins.

ANDY_C/FLICKR

3 Driving the Cabot Trail

Arguably the country's most scenic drive and popular among domestic and international tourists, the highway features stunning vistas and wildlife as it weaves throughout Eastern Canada. Contestants would have to work a shift at one of the bed and breakfasts along the route, catering to fellow tourists. The team that gets the highest marks for service wins the challenge.



DANI/FLICKR

4 Survivor in the Thousand Islands

HDRAGON/FLICKR

A picturesque destination for vacationers wanting to get away from it all, the thousand islands is known for fishing, water sports and picture-frame worthy sunsets. Contestants would be tasked with navigating small sailboats along the Saint Lawrence River until they find an uninhabited island. Boy Scout skills will come in handy as the first group to start a small fire wins the competition.

5 Scavenger Hunt through Kensington Market

A multicultural and national historic site in Toronto, even the oddest item on a shopping list can be found among the eclectic shops and market merchants. To prove the point, contestants would be given an obscure list of food and clothing items to buy and the first team to get all of them would win.

MARKYEG/FLICKR

Bolivia. The 'Sistine Chapel of the Andes' draws visitors with its colourful paintings

The colonial-era house of worship known in Bolivia as the "Sistine Chapel of the Andes" was filled with flowers over the weekend for those celebrating two weddings and seven baptisms on the windswept mountain plateau. Although a far cry from the original Sistine Chapel at the Vatican, the colourful paintings that decorate the inside of this small church make it a popular choice for special religious services. Built in 1608 to evangelize indigenous Bolivians into the Roman Catholic faith, the chapel these days attracts both the faithful and tourists who travel about 260 kilometres (160 miles) south from the capital of La Paz to reach the site in the town Curahuara de Carangas, in Oruro department.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five ways to save on trips

Hot deals. Want to beat the winter blahs? Metro finds out how to get the best bang for your buck

LOREN CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

Hoping to enjoy a little sunshine this winter without breaking the bank? Here are five tips to help you find the best deal while planning your up-coming vacation.

Travel during non-peak times

If you are headed to the United States, avoid an early morning departure, which is rush hour for business travellers, and take a mid-day flight. Looking for good value on a seven day holiday at an all-inclusive resort? Consider giving up your weekend departure and going Wednesday to Wednesday as rates are often lower for those willing to fly mid-week. Happily the experience is the same.

Try new travel options, like cycling in Cuba, which are often discounted to encourage travellers to give them a try. LAURA512/FLICKR

Jump on new routes

Airlines and tour operators that are expanding to different destinations often give introductory discounts to encourage travellers to give them a try. For example, adventurecenter.com is offering a 10 per cent discount on their Cycling Cuba trip. Don't think about it too long, travel must be booked before Dec. 31, 2012.

Ask your hotel what their optional fees are and ensure you are billed accordingly

Resort fees, early check ins/late check outs, daily newspaper and internet charges on your room are all examples of fees you could avoid. If you can't live without your Facebook friends, go to a local wifi hot spot and log on for free.

Be loyal

Joining a loyalty program can lead to a whole range of value-added perks like free internet, a room up-grade at your hotel and eventually the option to redeem your stash of accumulated points for a free vacation. Not all loyalty programs are created equal, so do your research when signing up. The bank rewards programs tend to be the best.

Book early or book late

If you know exactly where you want to go then don't hesitate to take advantage of any early booking bonuses you may find.

By waiting until the last minute, you will find some great deals, but your choices will be very limited.

Playing the last minute game is only recommended for flexible travellers. Check out itravel2000.com's Daily Deals highlight list.

New Fantasyland makes dreams come true

Disney. Fans of Florida's park have a new section to explore with the site's largest expansion in its history

Derrick Weitlich and his friend Leslie Martinez arrived at the Magic Kingdom at 5:40 a.m. last Thursday, wanting to be among the first to visit the park's New Fantasyland.

Getting up early was worth it, said these Melbourne, Fla., Disney fans, who estimated that they have visited the park some 180 times.

"I love Beauty and the Beast," said Martinez, while standing in front of the new Gaston's Tavern restaurant. "And I'm very picky when it comes to details about Beauty and the Beast."

Martinez and Weitlich weren't disappointed. From the antlers lining the walls in the tavern to the animatronic Ariel in the Under the Sea-Journey of the Little Mermaid ride, they were impressed with the New Fantasyland.

It's the largest expansion project in the park's 41-year history. The new spaces are built on what was once the site of the 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea experience, and the expansion doubles the size of the original Fantasyland.

The central Florida theme park near Orlando is blending classic Disney characters (like Dumbo, the flying elephant) and newer, popular hits (like The Little Mermaid) with the multimillion dollar expansion.

Tradition lives on

For Disney traditionalists, never fear. Many of the park's longstanding beloved attractions like Cinderella Castle, and rides based on It's a Small World and The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh, remain open.

"It's really about immersing people in a number of stories, characters and music that they love," said Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Tom Staggs.

New Fantasyland sits just past Cinderella Castle, with two sections: Enchanted Forest, where visitors will find Belle from Beauty and the Beast and Ariel from The Little Mermaid, and Storybook Circus, which is inspired by the Disney film Dumbo.

Among the highlights: A ride called Under the Sea — Journey of the Little Mermaid, which tells Ariel's story, and Enchanted Tales With Belle, a walk-through experience that features a magical mirror and costumed characters.

Gaston's Tavern, part of the New Fantasyland, is inspired by Beauty and the Beast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Staggs said that the expansion allows families to "be a little more relaxed" while in the park, calling the spaces "more enjoyable."

Thursday's grand opening happened twice: Once for media and bloggers in front of Gaston's Tavern and then again on the steps of Cinderella Castle, with cheering park visitors. Staggs was joined by actress Ginnifer Goodwin, singer Jordin Sparks and, of course, Mickey Mouse. Sparks sang a medley of songs from Disney movies.

Two of the New Fantasyland's highlights have yet to open. A ride called Seven Dwarfs Mine Train is still under construction, as is Princess Fairytale Hall — where guests can go to meet all of their favourite Disney princesses at once.

Disney officials said the princess experience will open next year and the ride is expected to open in 2014.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

p crusher mascara by lashblast
ET ZERO CLUMPS...
VEN AFTER
STROKES!

NYC museum back in business

New York's South Street Seaport Museum reopened to visitors Monday for the first time since Superstorm Sandy hit the region and will launch two new exhibits Friday.

The museum, located at 12 Fulton St. in Lower Manhattan on the East River, is one of the last tourist attractions in the city to reopen. Also still closed to visitors are the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, which will not reopen before 2013. The Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum on the Hudson River is also still closed. Flooding from Sandy, which hit at the end of October, destroyed electrical and heating systems in many building basements in the South Street area. The Seaport's Pier 17 has reopened and New York Water Taxi service has resumed there, but many businesses and shops remain closed. The Seaport neighbourhood's cobblestone streets, preserved 19th century buildings and tall-masted historic vessels anchored at Pier 17 create an evocative glimpse of New York's old waterfront and is a popular tourist destination.

The historic vessels and the Seaport museum's collections and exhibits were not damaged, but the museum's mechanical, heating and electrical systems were shut down. For now, visitors must use stairs as its escalators and elevators are still not operating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than sun in St. Lucia

Kathy Buckworth helps harvest cocoa pods. PROVIDED BY KATHY BUCKWORTH

Explore the island. Once you've sipped your blended drink and kicked back on the beach, there's plenty more to entertain you

KATHY BUCKWORTH
life@metronews.ca

With average temperatures ranging between 22 C and 32 C, St. Lucia has long been a destination for sun seekers. But those who come for the sun and sand find that there is much more to this beautiful West Indies island. For those who tire of lounging at soft sandy beaches, gazing at the two Pitons (mountains) and sipping tropical drinks, it is well worth it to explore the island.

Chocolate infused cuisine

Cocoa is the second largest crop in St. Lucia (bananas being No. 1), and with the establishment of Chocolate Heritage Month in November, St. Lucia is becoming well-known for producing extremely high quality chocolate. The Hotel Chocolat, which exemplifies the infiltration of chocolate, opened in March 2011 as an extension of the extremely successful Hotel Chocolat U.K. brand. The hotel offers a "tree to bar" tour which has participants harvesting a bean, going through the fermenting, drying, and roasting process, turning the chocolate nibs into paste and then liquid chocolate takes it full circle. The chocolate nibs from the cocoa pods are used in most of the menu offerings at their gourmet restaurant Boucan, including a chocolate grinder settled next to the salt and pepper. Their spa, like many others, includes several chocolate treatments. The Treetop Spa at the Sugar Beach resort down the road offers a chocolate mint massage treatment in one of their seven treetop treatment rooms, which of course should be followed by a decadent chocolate dessert in their beachside gourmet restaurant, Bayside. Cap Maison also offers a tapas-style menu which includes many cocoa-infused dishes.

Outdoor adventure activities

St. Lucia's lush landscapes are beautifully maintained in their very natural forms, allowing for some unique hiking opportunities up the Gros Piton (ironically the Petit Piton is not often climbed, due to its steepness). Most hotels offer guided hiking tours to the top for the fit and adventurous. At a lower altitude, the Caribbean Sea is a warm and crystal clear body of water, and most resorts offer sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and other water sports. For the even more adventurous, take advantage of being in an actual rainforest and visit Rainforest Adventures for ziplining through lush fauna and foliage. Start at 1,400 feet and zip down to 600, through 3,442 acres of wildlife and forest. Mongoose, boa constrictors, wild pigs and more make noise and movement under your feet. There is an option to take a four hour guided hike with a trained guide, or for a slower pace, the tram ride provides a more stable ride to the top.

Customer service

Visits to several high end resorts on the island revealed that their staff to customer ratio is high. Former Jalousie Plantation and now Sugar Beach Resort has 78 rooms/villas, with just fewer than 500 on staff, including 100 grounds people. The stunning cliffside Jade Mountain can handle approximately 60 guests and has 200 staff, including a personal butler assigned to each room. The Hotel Chocolat with eight villas and six lodges has 150 staff at their guests' service. At Sugar Beach, one need merely wave the red drink flag to have service appear in seconds by the pool. At Cap Maison resort, the Champagne Zipline" has proven to be an instant hit.

If you go...

- **Hotel Chocolat.** thehotelchocolat.com
- **Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort.** viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/en/sugar-beach
- **Cap Maison.** capmaison.com
- **Rainforest Adventures.** rainforestadventure.com
- **WestJet.** Flies to St. Lucia twice weekly.

Adventure!
Teach English Overseas
> TESOL Certified in 5 Days
> In-Class or Online
> No Degree Required!
1.888.270.2941
Job Guaranteed!
Next in-class course: Feb 6th- 10th, 2012
Next Seminar: Jan 16th, 2013 @ 7pm
Travelodge University Hotel - 2227 Banff Trail NW
www.globaltesol.com
GLOBAL TESOL COLLEGE

FILL YOUR WEEKENDS
WITH MORE FUN FOR UP TO
40% LESS.
BOOK NOW TO SAVE UP TO 40%
FOR ANY WEEKEND THROUGH 2013.
Find any reason to get away for the weekend with the **Any Weekend**, **Anywhere Sale**. Book a weekend stay by January 31, 2013 at any participating hotel and resort, for any weekend through 2013 and save up to 40%.* And with destinations worldwide, you can find experiences worth sharing every weekend, anywhere.
<<< BOOK NOW AT HHONORS.COM/WEEKEND
OR CALL 1-800-HHONORS
FOR OUR BEST RATE GUARANTEE <<<
HILTON HHONORS
WALDORF ASTORIA HOTELS & RESORTS
CONRAD HOTELS & RESORTS
Hilton HOTELS & RESORTS
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
EMBASSY SUITES
Hilton Garden Inn
Hampton
HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON
HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON
Hilton Grand Vacations
*Book between November 19, 2012 and January 31, 2013 (February 14, 2013 for Asia Pacific properties) and stay between November 22, 2012 (November 24, 2012 for Asia Pacific properties; December 13, 2012 for Americas properties) and December 31, 2013. Subject to availability. **Full non-refundable prepayment required at time of booking. Must book at least seven (7) days in advance of arrival, except where noted.** Discounts vary and range from 15% - 40% off select rates. Blackout dates and length of stay restrictions may apply based upon which day of the week arrival occurs, geographical location of hotel, or by brand. Additional restrictions apply. Visit HHonors.com/Weekend for full terms and conditions. ©2012 Hilton Worldwide.

SAVE $2

(two dollars)
WHEN YOU PURCHASE ANY COVERGIRL PRODUCT

DEALER: We will reimburse the face value of coupon plus our specified handling fee provided you accept it from your customer on purchase of brand specified. Other applications constitute fraud. We in our sole discretion may refuse reimbursement where we suspect fraudulent redemption has occurred. Applications for reimbursement received after 6 months from expiry date as indicated on this coupon, will not be accepted. Reimbursement will be made only to retail distributors who redeemed coupon or holder of Procter & Gamble certificate of authority. For redemption mail to: P&G, P.O. Box 3000, Saint John, N.B., E2L 4L3. GST/HST/QST and Provincial Sales Tax (where applicable) are included in face value of coupon.

PROCTER & GAMBLE INC., TORONTO, ONTARIO

CONSUMER: LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE of products and quantities stated. **Use of more than one manufacturer coupon per product is strictly prohibited.** Coupons not authorized if purchasing products for resale. Void if transferred, sold, auctioned, reproduced or altered from original. Any other use constitutes fraud. You may pay sales tax. Do not send to Procter & Gamble. P&G accepts no liability for printing errors or omissions. **Valid only in Canada.** No cash or credit in excess of shelf price may be returned to consumer or applied to transaction.

© 2012 P&G

63767706

MANUFACTURER COUPON | **EXPIRY DATE: MARCH 31, 2013**

Student voice

All that I've gained from getting involved

Kelsey Goforth
Graduate
Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
University of Toronto
TalentEgg.ca

What's your school-to-work transition story?

While pursuing my undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto, I studied political science with an emphasis on human rights and international development. This past summer I was finishing up my final credit and was searching for the perfect summer job that would hopefully lead me into a career field directly related to these interests.

I was aware that a company called Public Outreach fundraised for developmental and human rights organizations and I had always been intrigued by the fundraisers that I had seen, but didn't picture myself taking on such a role.

However, on the advice of a friend, I applied. The role definitely surprised me. I had no idea how much I would be learning about various not-for-profit charities and how many amazing conversations I would have with donors. One highlight is when I met a woman from Zimbabwe who actually received aid from one of the charities I was fundraising for.

The position turned into far more than a summer job when roles in the recruitment department opened up. I began applying and eventually, in August, I took on the role of U.S. Recruiter, where I was responsible for recruitment in Boston, Chicago, New York City and Minneapolis. I was able to transition quite quickly to my new role, going from fundraiser to recruiter in three short months. Being able to learn about the inner-workings of a whole new department has given me the opportunity to better understand and appreciate all that the company does.

Kelsey Goforth. PROVIDED

What am I doing now?

I am currently in my fourth month as a Public Outreach Recruiter. In addition to my U.S. recruitment duties, I also contribute blog posts to our staff website. Outside of work, I like to pursue other interests that not only appeal to me but also give me an additional skill set to include on resumés and applications. I write articles for TalentEgg and, additionally, I am beginning French courses in January in order to receive a certificate in french proficiency. Although I currently have a job, I do not want to prevent myself from continuing to learn more and develop my skills.

My recommendations for employers, career centres and schools

When it comes to campus career centres and their related programs, it is important to be well-advertised and easily accessible. Students are busy with classes and extra-curriculars, so having flexible hours is imperative. Secondly, many programs at schools aren't given the exposure they deserve. Often students are bombarded with information in their first year, however by the time fourth year rolls around and the job search becomes more intense, these programs are long forgotten about. When students approach their final years of education, universities and colleges should remind them that there is plenty of guidance and resources available.

My advice for students and recent graduates

• Get involved: As a student, it is important to think beyond essays and exams, and also take the time to get involved in your community. I personally found extra-curricular activities and volunteering to be extremely beneficial — both when it came to developing new skills as well as seeking employment.

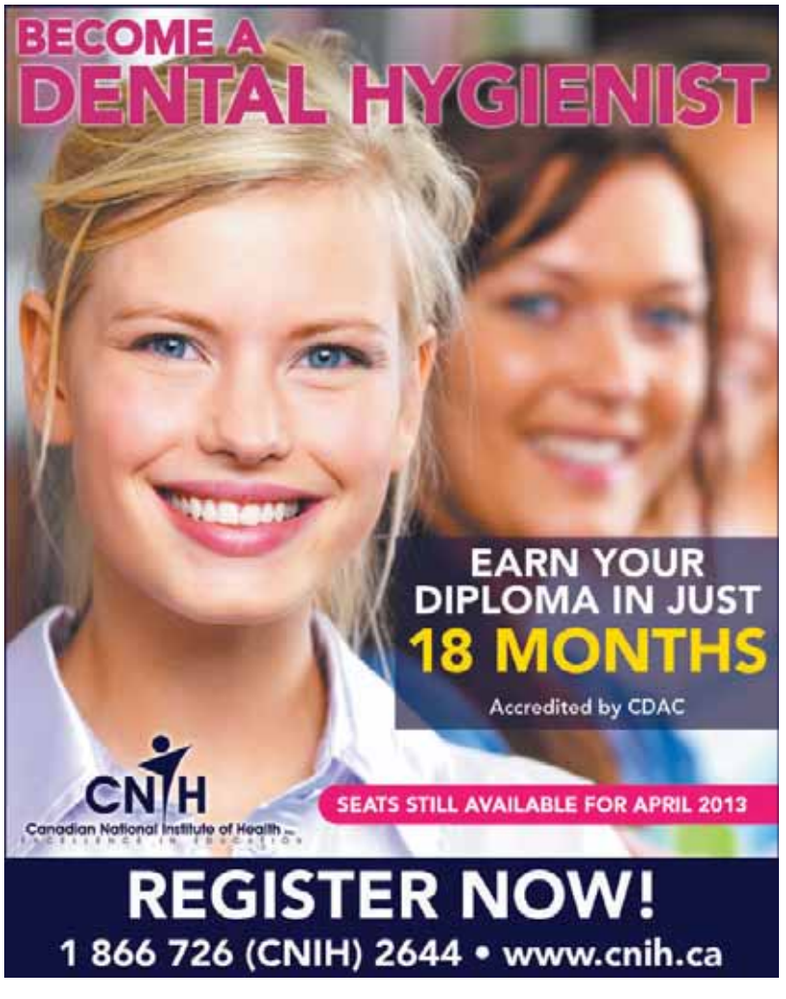
• The importance of networking: The job market is competitive. Learning to write an impressive resumé is a great skill, however a piece of paper can only go so far. For me, networking has been the most effective means of both connecting with people with similar interests and landing new jobs.

• Don't underestimate your skills: Take a chance when it comes to your job applications. Often students and recent graduates feel either under- or over-qualified for certain positions.

• Don't underestimate the experiences you have: Although you may be a recent graduate, your education, community involvement and past jobs all culminate to make you an excellent applicant. When applying for jobs you feel under-qualified for, keep in mind that the worst that can happen is being rejected.

• Don't overlook great opportunities: If I thought that being one of "those people on the street with the binders" was somehow beneath me, I wouldn't have been given the opportunity to work within the recruitment department. To grow with a company, it is important to start small and work your way up. It is only logical. You must learn the very basics if you want to eventually build on that and take on a more advanced role.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE.



BECOME A
CERTIFIED LICENCED
ESTHETICIAN
IN 3 MONTHS

Basic & Advanced Esthetics, Nail Tech, Laser, Manicures / Pedicures, Facials, Threading, Microderm, Chemical Peels, Body treatments

- All courses are approved by the **Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education**.
- Flexible class schedules. Daytime or evening.
- Student loan financing availble, or flexible payment option

(587) 351 - 9024
#200, 2748 – 37Ave NE
Calgary, Alberta
Email: support@niwe.ca
www.niwe.ca

NIWE National Institute of Wellness & Esthetics

"You can't let fear stop you, in life or in business. You've got to use fear in a positive way. Never give up. And think big."
Christian Darbyshire (BMgt '99)

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM JOB?

As a partner with tinePublic Inc., **Christian Darbyshire (BMgt '99)** – one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40™ in 2011 – has brought big names like Oprah Winfrey, Bill Clinton and Tony Blair to Canada for educational speaking engagements. If you ask, he will tell you he has his dream job.

Darbyshire's unique career path demonstrates how a Bachelor of Management from the University of Lethbridge enables you to shape your careeer path and create your own success.

At the U of L, you will discover your passion with exceptional flexibility, encouragement and support. You'll learn from industry leaders in one of Canada's top business facilities and have ample opportunities to enhance your degree through co-op placements, international exchanges, theory into practice programs and applied studies.

Are you looking for an environment that fosters big ideas?

> **DISCOVER.ulethbridge.ca**

Alberta's Destination University. Make it yours.

Campuses in Lethbridge, Calgary or Edmonton.

University of Lethbridge

FIAT LUX

Faculty of Management

Drink of the Week

Uchuva Cocktail

- 150 grams whole uchuva (cape gooseberries)
- 150 ml water
- 150 g sugar
- 360 ml gin
- 540 ml sparkling wine, cold
- 18 uchuvas, for muddling
- 24 mint leaves, for muddling
- 220 grams of ice
- Mint sprigs, for garnish

To make syrup, combine sugar and water in saucepan and cook over medium heat until sugar completely dissolves. Cool syrup in freezer. Combine uchuvas and syrup in blender and process on high 1 min. Pass mix through fine mesh strainer and discard solids. In pitcher, combine 180 ml of uchuva syrup, mint leaves and 18 uchuvas and muddle, 2 mins. Strain syrup and discard mint and uchuva pulp. Add gin and ice to syrup and stir 1 min. to chill; strain out ice. To serve, add sparkling wine, stir and divide the cocktail into 6 champagne flutes. Decorate each flute with a mint sprig.

PROEXPORT COLOMBIA

A very Colombian Christmas

Although many Canadian families have classic traditions for this time of year, it can be fun to spice things up with recipes from international hot spots.

Known for its historical urban centres, stunning beaches and Spanish nightlife, Colombia also has a lot to offer — even in the kitchen.

The country boasts scrumptious yuletide dishes that even the most amateur chef can prepare to impress guests by turning a typical holiday party into the ultimate fiesta. One of them is this Pork Tenderloin and Uchuva Pesto.

The "cape gooseberry," commonly known in Colombia as uchuva, can be found in local grocery stores.

Pork Tenderloin and Uchuva Pesto

Wow your guests with the use of uchuva (gooseberry) in this main dish. PROEXPORT COLOMBIA.

Ingredients

- 150 g uchuva (cape gooseberry), chopped
- 50 g pistachio, finely chopped
- 15 g cilantro, finely chopped
- 50 g shallot, finely chopped
- 50 ml extra virgin olive oil

For the pork:

- Pork tenderloin, cleaned
- Salt and black pepper
- 30 ml sunflower or grape seed oil
- 60 g butter
- 100 g uchuva, sliced
- 12 g thyme
- 8 garlic cloves
- 12 uchuvas, thinly sliced for garnish

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F (205 C).

2. In bowl, combine the first five ingredients to prepare the uchuva pesto and set aside.

3. Slice the pork tenderloin into 6 portions and season with salt and black pepper.

4. Heat a heavy oven–proof skillet on high heat for 2 minutes and add half of the oil. Sear 3 portions of tenderloin and cook until brown on one side. Turn to sear the other side and add half of the sliced uchuvas, butter, thyme and garlic and allow the butter to melt completely in the pan.

5. Lower the heat to low. Tilting the pan forward, cover the tenderloins with the butter-uchuva mixture for 2 minutes. Place on a plate, clean skillet and repeat cooking procedure for the other portions of meat.

6. Place the first three portions back on the skillet and place in the oven. Cook for approximately 10 to 12 minutes. Remove the skillet from the oven and place the tenderloins on a rack to cool for 10 minutes.

7. Place the pork slices on a serving platter. Cover generously with the uchuva pesto and garnish with thinly sliced uchuva.

PROEXPORT COLOMBIA

This isn't your grandma's Fruit Cake

This Exotic Fruit Cake from Colombia isn't your average holiday treat. It will satisfy even the harshest fruit cake critic.

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F (177 C).

2. In a medium bowl, beat the eggs with the milk.

3. In a stand mixer, mix the flour, sugar, salt and baking powder on low speed.

4. Add the butter to the flour mixture little by little. When the butter is incorporated, add the egg mixture slowly. Stop the machine and scrape down the sides of the bowl. Beat the cake batter on high speed for 2 minutes.

5. Add the exotic dried fruit and stir with a spatula to combine.

6. Place batter in baking molds. For individual portions use muffin tins with paper cupcake liners. A greased bread mold may also be used. When using muffin tins, fill each only half way.

7. Bake the fruit cakes for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the middle of the cakes comes out clean and dry.

8. Let the cakes rest for 10 minutes and then remove them from the mold. Serve warm.

PROEXPORT COLOMBIA

Ingredients

- 3 eggs, room temperature
- 45 ml whole milk, room temperature
- 150 g cake flour
- 150 g white sugar
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 185 g butter, room temperature
- 1 1/2 cup exotic dried fruits (gooseberry, dragon fruit, mango, pineapple, guava, etc.)

Your guests will be pleasantly surprised when they bite into this Exotic Fruit Cake. PROEXPORT COLOMBIA

Denny's

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Receive a FREE order of Pancake Puppies (6) when you bring in a non-perishable food item for the Calgary Food Bank.

Offer available at all Denny's locations in Calgary from November 23rd to December 24th.

CONVENIENCE AND VARIETY

GIFT CARDS GIVE RECIPIENTS OPTIONS

Michael Bennett is an occasional gift card giver.

"I sometimes give them as thank you gifts or stocking stuffers," says the Guelph, Ont., man. "They're convenient and easy to give. The downside of them is they're easy to rely on them rather than discovering what someone likes and choosing a gift they would appreciate."

What is it about gift cards that we love so much? Is it the fact that we can buy them virtually anywhere? At a variety of price points in a variety of outlets?

"People generally know what type of store their friends or kids like to shop at," says Frances Ho, founder of Canadian site cardswap.ca. "However, they don't know specifically what sweater they prefer or the right pair of jeans. People are very particular about those things. It's just easier to give a card to a store they know they're going to enjoy."

While Ho believes it's more socially acceptable to give gift cards, she does believe it makes a difference in how you present it as a gift.

'If you combine a gift card with a really nice written message in the card, or wrapping it in a big box, it's really the effort that counts. Then it still has a warmth to it," she says.

They are also a nice way to give something to a gift that's too pricey.

"That's another benefit — if they're saving up for a larger item and the person can't afford to give you the large item, but they can give you a gift card towards," Ho says.

Gift cards do have their drawbacks, of course. Some come with expiry dates for example.

"And a lot of people tend to spend more money when they spend their gift cards because they treat it like it's free cash. And then they end up spending more than they actually budgeted for," Ho says.

However, you can make your gift card dollar stretch by watching for sales or deals — buy a gift card and pick up a gift for yourself for free, for example. Or re-gift a card that's not a fit for you or take it to a site such as cardswap.ca where you can trade your card in for points or cash.

"We see a variety of gift cards come in and whenever we post things on the site, they're gone within 24 hours because someone else wants that card," Ho says.

– Astrid Van Den Broek

FOCUS ON A PERFECT GIFT

AT THE CAMERA STORE

Please every shutterbug on your list this holiday with the gift of photography.

Whether you are shopping for the professional photographer or videographer in your life, or for those just picking up a new hobby, the staff at The Camera Store has the knowledge and experience to help you find the perfect gift that just clicks.

"We are the best destination in Calgary to fill anyone's photography needs," says Evelyn Drake, marketing and events co-ordinator for The Camera Store.

"We are not like an ordinary store — we are a photography community."

Focused on encouraging the spirit of photography in Calgary, The Camera Store offers a wide range of products from cameras to video gear, studio equipment, accessories and everything in between.

The store even has one of the best selections of photography books in the country, with many limited or collector editions.

For any photographer, no matter what their skill level, the learning never ends.

"We basically have a seminar or event on every type of photography and for every level of photographer," Drake says.

Sign your favourite photographer up for one of the many photography/video training events or workshops, or buy a gift card that can be applied to any class.

BRENT TAYLOR PHOTO

Pick up your gift card in store at 802 11th Ave. SW or online at thecamerastore.com.

As a special bonus for the holiday season every purchase of a new camera, includes admission to special introductory lesson on how to use your camera and $35 credit towards a Blurb Photo Book.

Give the gift of memories with a Nikon D3200 DSLR.

Nikon D3200

Nikon

Packed inside this HD-SLR is serious Nikon power: a 24.2 MP DX-format CMOS sensor that excels in any light, EXPEED 3 image-processing for fast operation and in-camera effects, Full HD (1080p) movie recording, in-camera tutorials and much more. What does this mean for you? Simply stunning photos and videos in any setting. And now, with Nikon's optional Wireless Mobile Adapter, you can share those masterpieces instantly with your Smartphone or tablet!

Until Dec. 31st, receive a Free Nikon WU-1A Wireless Mobile Adapter with the purchase of a Nikon D3200. While supplies last.

Our Price **$429.76** Body only. After instant rebate.

Proud recipient of the Consumer Choice Award for Photographic Retailer 8 years in a row.

The Camera Store
Get the picture

Big Box Prices, Expert Knowledge.

Call or check our website for guaranteed low prices.
802 - 11th Avenue S.W. Calgary | (403) 234-9935 | 1-888-539-9397
www.thecamerastore.com

SECRET SANTA GIFT IDEAS

NEWS CANADA PHOTO

It's that time of year — you are buying presents for friends, family, and that one quiet guy at the office. Office gift exchanges often mean you are shopping for people you barely know. To help, the staff from Canada's largest bargain hunting site, RedFlagDeals.com, have put together some secret Santa tips:

BOSS: Buying presents for your boss can be awkward. Choose a meaningful gift instead of something fancy or expensive. Fun gifts like a framed photo from a work event or a batch of gourmet cookies to share are a good start.

NEW PERSON: This one is tougher. Keep an eye on what the new person likes to eat. If they come into the office every day with a large coffee, put together a nice mug, a coffee shop gift certificate and some chocolate-covered espresso beans for the ultimate gift.

INTERN: Usually, "intern" is a code word for "underpaid." Skip the gag gifts and get your intern something useful like movie passes.

RECEPTIONIST: If there is one thing a receptionist has enough of, it's office supplies. Skip the stationery and treat them to a deluxe gift basket, a gift certificate to the local salon for a manicure/pedicure combo, or a good book.

IT/HELP DESK: Treat the people who fix your computer well. Something like a gift certificate to their favourite restaurant will work. If you want to be a bit more creative, observe what they decorate their desk with and get them something that fits in. – *News Canada*

finding the perfect gift for the people you know, and those you kinda know: **priceless**

Choosing a gift for the people you don't know so well is as easy as choosing a gift for the ones you know the best. MasterCard® prepaid cards are accepted wherever MasterCard is, making them the perfect gift for pretty much anyone. **That's MasterCard. That's Priceless.®**

Available at these locations and more: 7-ELEVEN Sears

MasterCard

mastercard.ca/prepaidcards

This card is issued by Peoples Trust Company pursuant to license by MasterCard International. Some restrictions apply. See card packaging for expiry dates and details. ®/™ MasterCard, Priceless and the MasterCard brand mark are registered trademarks of MasterCard International Incorporated. © 2012 MasterCard International Incorporated. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners and are used with permission.

YOUR SIMPLE GIFT SOLUTION

WALMART GIFT CARDS OFFER GREAT PRICES, CHOICES

Wondering what to give the mail carrier, the dog walker, your child's teacher, or the co-worker whose name you picked in the secret Santa draw? Or pretty much anyone on your holiday gift list? Thanks to Walmart, there's a simple solution.

"When you give a Walmart gift card, you're giving the gift of great prices and choices," says Felicia Fefer, Walmart Canada's manager of corporate affairs.

The beauty of giving a Walmart gift card is the person receiving it can choose to use it for whatever they want the most, from fashion and electronics to food and housewares.

There are more than 30 holiday gift card designs, ranging from contemporary (gold, white and purple snowflakes on a purple background) to traditional (holiday bells) and whimsical (cartoon of Santa and friends on a sleigh).

The collection also features cards with specialty finishes, including lenticular cards (where you hold the card still and see one design, then tilt it to view a second design) and scratch 'n' sniff cards (gingerbread is an appropriate scent at this time of year).

There are even cards for pet lovers, with cute images of cats and dogs decked out in holiday accessories.

The gift cards have matching tin carriers that retail for $2.47 each, so no wrapping is necessary. The tins have colourful contemporary Christmas designs that include a red-nosed reindeer pulling a sleigh, Santa with his sack of toys, a pile of gifts under a tree, and blue snowflakes on a white background.

Walmart gift cards can be bought at one store and redeemed at any other store location in Canada. Bonus: When the recipient has spent the amount on the card, it can be reloaded and reused. And the best part? There are no expiry dates.

The holiday-themed cards will be for sale right up until the stores close on Christmas Eve — ideal for last-minute shoppers who still have no idea what to get some of the people on their gift list.

"Walmart gift cards are popular all year long, but especially during the holidays," Fefer says.

"They're the perfect present for those who are hard to shop for or who have everything."

– Jane Doucet

FLEXIBLE PRICING

Located at the cash registers and near the front of the more than 370 Walmart stores across Canada, the gift cards come with a pre-set amount of $25, $50 or $100. Or you can choose the dollar amount — anywhere from $5 to $2,500 — which the cashier will load onto the card.

Shopping for the person who has everything?
Carte-cadeau
Walmart
Gift Card
Give the gift of choice with a Walmart gift card.
Balance inquiries: 1-888-537-5503. Card only valid for purchases at Walmart Canada (excludes licensees). Cannot be returned or redeemed for cash, unless required by law. Receipt required to replace lost or stolen cards. Card balance cannot be applied towards credit card balances. Returns of merchandise purchased with card will be credited to card only. See gift card for full terms and conditions.
© 2012 Wal-Mart Canada Corp.
Walmart
Save money. Live better.

THE ONE THAT MATTERS FOR THE ONES THAT MATTER

REJUVENATE WITH AN ESCAPE AT EVELINECHARLES

One Christmas gift that will always be appreciated is the gift of time. Time for one's self, time for reflection, relaxation and restoration.

This year, give the special people on your list the opportunity to rejuvenate with an EvelineCharles escape.

EvelineCharles' beauty professionals are dedicated to making each moment an unforgettable one for your deserving someone. Choose from a variety of salon and spa services or custom packages for head-to-toe pampering, and EvelineCharles' professionals will do the rest. With unparalleled service expertise and an unwavering commitment to its guests, the EvelineCharles team is devoted to the tranquility and comfort of all who walk through the doors.

To further enrich your EvelineCharles experience this holiday season, personalize your gift card purchase with limited edition holiday kits or exclusive EvelineCharles products. There are a variety of ready-for-the-tree gift sets available, including nail polish kits, skin care sets, and the exclusive EvelineCharles Balm Trio. And when you purchase a gift card of $135 or more you will receive one of three complimentary gifts: A signature scent body kit and candle, an exclusive EvelineCharles robe, or a holiday makeup kit.

The one that matters for the ones that matter. EvelineCharles.

PREMIER OUTFITTER OF ALL THINGS SCOTTISH

AT HIGHLAND SCOTTISH GIFT SHOPPE LTD.

CONTRIBUTED

This holiday season, give the gift of love with a Celtic engagement ring from Highland Scottish Gift Shoppe Ltd. & Scottish Formal Kilt Rentals & Sales.

"The holidays are very special to have those that you love close to you, including your special loved one and your family members," says Jeanie Hawes, co-owner of Highland Scottish.

Hawes says the best way to show someone you love them is with a custom-made Celtic ring from Highland.

"Highland specializes in Celtic diamond engagement rings and Celtic wedding bands at a surprisingly affordable price. We keep every budget in mind," Hawes says.

"Celtic rings with a very high standard of diamond that cannot be found in regular jewelry stores."

There is also an outstanding collection of unique Celtic pendants, earrings, and more in store and online.

To make sure your loved one gets exactly what their heart desires, give them the gift of choice with a gift card to Highland Scottish. Gift cards are perfect for those looking to put together their complete Highland outfit or rent complete kilt outfits for weddings, parties, or special events.

"Scottish and Irish kilts are a very special purchase and are custom-made for the individual in his/her own clan tartan and made to measure," says Hawes.

Don't forget to reserve your kilt outfit or purchase your kilt for Robbie Burns Night in January.

This premier outfitter of all things Scottish is located on its family estate, east of Canada Olympic Park.

For more information on Highland Scottish, visit highlandshoppe.ab.ca.

the one that matters
for the ones that matter.
EvelineCharles Gift Card
receive a free gift when
you purchase a gift card of $135
www.evelinecharles.com

PERFECT GIFTS ARE IN THE CARDS

SEARS CREATES SPECIAL EDITION GIFT CARDS

Sears Canada is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Sears Wish Book with lots of holiday gift ideas, a national network of festively-decorated stores, and 24/7 shopping at sears.ca.

"To celebrate the 60th year of its famous catalogue, Sears Canada has created a collection of special edition gift cards, one highlighting images of past Wish Book covers that is certain to stir memories from everyone's childhood," says Daniela Chiasson, director of gift cards at Sears Canada.

Other holiday designs on Sears gift cards range from snowflakes to reindeer, and the cards are available in a range of denominations from $10 up to $500 in stores (at cash counters), online at sears.ca and through the catalogue. There are no expiry dates or activation fees and they can easily be redeemed at any Sears store, online and through the catalogue. They can also be applied towards home services and other in-store specialty services such as Sears Travel, Sears Optical and Sears Portrait Studios.

"It's the ideal gift for that 'hard to shop for' person," Chiasson says.

Making wishes come true is a theme with Sears, and one of the nicest gifts to put under the Christmas tree this year is a plush Cooper the Bear and a Sears Cooper the Bear Gift Card.

"The Cooper Bear is Sears' annual charity plush," Chiasson says. "Cooper is also featured on a limited edition gift card that celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Sears Wish Book."

What makes Cooper extra special is that $2 from every purchase of the bear will be donated to the Sears Canada Charitable Foundation, which supports programs that promote the healthy development of youth in Canada.

Here are some other great gift ideas from Sears for the holidays:

- At searsgiftcards.ca, upload your favourite family photo and print it on a gift card of any denomination for a personalized gift. Sears will also mail the card in a gift box if you wish.
- There are a wide variety of other gift cards available in-store such as iTunes, Petro-Canada, Chapters Indigo, or long distance calling cards.
- Sears has partnered with Lifeexperiences.ca to offer unique gifts such as a spa day, wine tasting or hand-gliding adventures.
- Reward employees or surprise clients with a Sears Incentive Gift Card in any denomination from $5 to $500 (volume rebates available). Businesses can call 1-866-297-5306 or visit searsincentives.ca.

Visit searsgiftcards.ca for more information.

SHOP VIA THE IPAD APP

Sears 60th anniversary Wish Book is the first catalogue on its "shopable" Sears iPad Catalogue app.

"It's fun, interactive and can make Christmas shopping easier than ever," says Daniela Chiasson, director of gift cards at Sears Canada.

The app features a smart pinch and zoom function as well as a simple, intuitive navigation and browsing experience. Your family can create wish lists, bookmark catalogue pages and share products via email, Twitter or Facebook.

Download the iPad Sears Catalogue app via the Apple iTunes App Store or sears.ca/app.

Gift giving made easy

Give a Sears gift card today

Pick up your Sears gift cards in-store, or order online by December 17, 2012 and we'll ship them to almost anywhere in Canada* - just in time for the holidays.

The possibilities are endless with our huge selection of other gift cards available in-store.

Celebrating 60 years of Wishes

CALL 1.800.267.3277 CLICK sears.ca COME IN

Sears

*Available in most locations for pick-up at your local Sears store.
We will confirm estimated arrival date when you order. Copyright 2012. Sears Canada Inc.

PERSONAL FLAIR ADDS EXCITEMENT

EVEN THE SMALLEST GIFTS DESERVE TO BE DRESSED UP

When it comes to the perfect holiday gift, it's not necessarily what's on the inside that counts. The magic of giving is due in large part to the colourful paper, breathtaking bows and other giftwrap accessories that create a festive sense of occasion.

Statistics indicate that although gift wrap has grown to become a multibillion-dollar industry, the way we give gifts is changing.

The growing popularity of gift cards and "virtual" presents, like charitable donations, means fewer boxes to wrap, and many environmentally-conscious Canadians are looking for alternatives to traditional gift wrapping.

According to Shelli Gardner, co-founder and CEO of crafting company Stampin' Up!, there are countless creative ways to keep up with the changing times.

"Gift wrap creates the sense of excitement and anticipation that is such an important part of gift-giving," she says. "Even the smallest gift deserves to be presented with a bit of flair. From unique packaging ideas for gift cards to eco-friendly wrapping that can be re-used time and time again, there are some exciting new trends to watch in 2012."

Canadians spend more than $6 billion on gift cards every year, so odds are most people will have them on their holiday shopping list.

However, this well-intentioned gift can often fall flat if presented in a store-branded envelope, or via email. To give a gift card with style, Gardner suggests taking a small paper envelope and adding a festive stamp in a seasonal shade such as Cherry Cobbler or Gumball Green. The Stampin' Up! Make a Mitten and Snowflake Soiree Stamp Sets include a variety of holiday-themed shapes; visit stampinup.ca to learn more. For an added touch, punch a hole at one end of the envelope and tie on some seasonally-inspired grosgrain ribbon. You can add it to your tree as an ornament until the time comes to open gifts.

– News Canada

ROCK THE HALLS

iTunes Cards – One great gift for Entertainment, Apps, Books and more!

TM and © 2012 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

REAL CANADIAN Superstore big on fresh, low on price.

VALUE DRUG MART

SAFEWAY

CO-OP

Rexall

Sobeys

WAVEBREAK MEDIA/THINKSTOCK

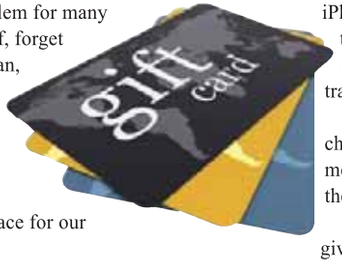
GIFT CARDS ARE GOING MOBILE

YOU CAN TAP AN APP ON YOUR PHONE AT SOME STORES

Forget carrying around that giant deck of gift cards in your wallet — many companies are taking their plastic cash mobile.

When it comes to giving and getting gift cards, technology is making it a lot easier to keep track of this electronic cash.

"Physical gift cards are a problem for many people, they put them on the shelf, forget to use them," says Dr. Tom Keenan, adjunct professor in the department of computer science at the University of Calgary.



"Since more and more of our life is going online and 'into the cloud,' that's probably a better place for our gift cards, too."

Gone are the days where you would get a gift card and hold on to that piece of flimsy paper like it was cash.

Over the last few years, shoppers have seen majority of stores move over to the plastic, reusable swipe cards and now many places are moving their gift cards to mobile devices.

Starbucks is among the most popular when it comes to mobile gift card technology. No longer do you have to dig around looking for that plastic reloadable gift card — it is as simple as tapping an app on your smartphone and scanning for your purchase.

Sending a gift card to the coffee lover on your list is just as easy as well. Forget stepping foot and waiting in those long lines when you can go online and have the gift sent directly to someone's email inbox.

"This means less junk in your wallet, less chance of losing them or having them stolen," Keenan says.

iPhone users may also find a new app to keep these cards organized on their device. Passbook allows you to keep track of all your gift cards in one place.

Not everyone is going to enjoy checking their inbox on Christmas morning when they used to be checking their stockings or under the tree.

"Some people will always want to give physical cards, just as some people will want to put a physical card in the mail," Keenan says.

"Most will see the benefits of e-cards — a smart company would allow printing a very ornate certificate online to stuff in stocking."

If you are lucky enough to have a U.S. address or U.S. credit card, sites like Giftly.com make it easy to send personalized gift cards by text, email or regular mail to any local business in your recipient's area.

Hopefully, this technology will become more widely available in Canada for the next holiday season.

– Candice Ward

Battle of the crease: Four goalies fight for junior jobs

World junior selection camp. Canada will take a third goaltender to Russia as insurance against injury

No goalie feels more pressure at the world junior hockey championship than Canada's starter, says the man cultivating the next one.

Ron Tugnutt is the Canadian team's goaltending coach and has personally experienced that kind of pressure. In addition to a long NHL career, Tugnutt twice represented Canada at the men's world championship.

"There's a lot more pressure on our goalie than on the other teams," Tugnutt said Tuesday at selection camp in Calgary.

When European teams win the semifinal, they're thrilled at the prospect of "at least" a silver medal, but Canadian players aren't interested in anything but gold, he said.

"When we win the semifinal game, we're only thinking one thing," Tugnutt added.

With no incumbent from the previous world junior championship, a major subplot of selection camp in Calgary this week is who will be Canada's starter, backup and alternate at the 2013 world junior championship starting Dec. 26 in Ufa, Russia.

In a new development, Canada will take a third goaltender as insurance against injury because of the travel time required to get to Russia.

Malcolm Subban of the Belleville Bulls, Laurent Brossoit of the Edmonton Oil Kings, Jordan Binnington of the Owen Sound Attack and Jake Paterson of the Saginaw Spirit are the four invitees. There's little time for them to impress head coach Steve Spott as the 23-player team will be finalized Thursday afternoon.

Coach Spott tried to dampen speculation that Subban, the younger brother of Montreal Canadiens defenceman P.K. Subban, has the inside track on the starting job because he plays on European-sized ice at Belleville's Yardmen Arena.

After four years on North American ice, the world junior tournament returns to a surface four metres wider, with just over a half-metre more space between the back of the net and the end boards.

Tugnutt says Subban's big-ice experience is one check mark in his favour.

"I think it is an advantage for him just because it is a different visual," Tugnutt said. "But that's not going to be the determining factor on what happens here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

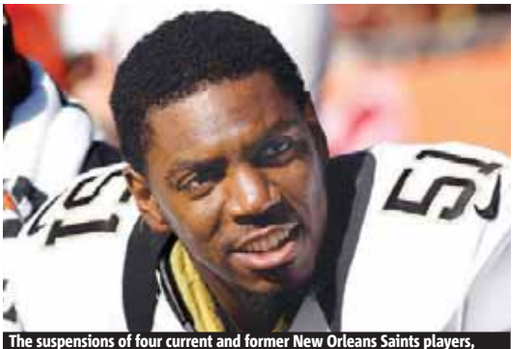
Red and white

Sudbury Wolves defenceman Frank Corrado scored the winner for Red in a 3-1 win over White on Tuesday in the Canadian junior hockey team's intrasquad game.

- Corrado struck with 63 seconds remaining and teammate Ryan Nugent-Hopkins of the Edmonton Oilers added an empty-net goal.

Goalie Malcolm Subban stretches on Tuesday during the national junior hockey team selection camp in Calgary.
JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tagliabue overturns 'bounty' suspensions



The suspensions of four current and former New Orleans Saints players, including linebacker Jonathan Vilma, pictured, have been overturned.
SCOTT ISKOWITZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

In a sharp rebuke to his successor's handling of the NFL's bounty investigation, former commissioner Paul Tagliabue overturned the suspensions of four current and former New Orleans Saints players in a case that has preoccupied the league for almost a year.

Tagliabue, who was appointed by commissioner Roger Goodell to handle the appeals, still found that three of the players engaged in conduct detrimental to the league. He said they participated in a performance pool that rewarded key plays — including hard tackles — that could merit fines. But he stressed that the team's coaches were very much involved.

"My affirmation of commissioner Goodell's findings could certainly justify the issuance of fines. However, this entire case has been contaminated by the coaches and others in the Saints' organization," the ruling said.

Tagliabue oversaw a second round of player appeals in connection with the cash-for-hits program run by former defensive co-ordinator Gregg Williams from 2009 to 2011.

Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma had been given a full-season suspension, while defensive end Will Smith, Cleveland linebacker Scott Fujita and free-agent defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove each received shorter suspensions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Appeals

- None of the players sat out any games because of suspensions.
- They have been allowed to play while appeals are pending, though Fujita is on injured reserve and Hargrove is not with a team.

Lockout

NHL, players to resume talks on Wednesday

The NHL and NHL Players' Association will resume their collective bargaining negotiations at an undisclosed location on Wednesday — and they'll have some company.

U.S. federal mediators Scot L. Beckenbaugh and John Sweeney are set to rejoin the process.

It will be the first meeting since the two sides took public shots at each other after talks went off the rails last week.

Before the blow-up, they appeared to be making progress during three days in New York that saw an exchange of proposals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soccer

Sinclair nabs another award

Canadian soccer star Christine Sinclair added another award to cap a standout season.

The 29-year-old from Burnaby, B.C., was named the Canadian Soccer Association's female player of the year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tennis

Peliwo's stellar year ends with world's-best nod from ITF

Vancouver's Filip Peliwo was named the International Tennis Federation's junior tennis player of the year on Tuesday.

The 18-year-old reached the junior boys' final of all four grand-slam tournaments this year, winning at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver's Filip Peliwo
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Lakers drop another as Cavaliers win a stunner

Cavaliers guard C.J. Miles goes up for a shot against Los Angeles Lakers centre Dwight Howard on Tuesday night in Cleveland. Miles scored 28 for the Cavs and Kyrie Irving had 28 points and 11 assists after missing 11 games with a broken finger in Cleveland's 100-94 win over Los Angeles.

MARK DUNCAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crosby and Co. sticking together through lockout

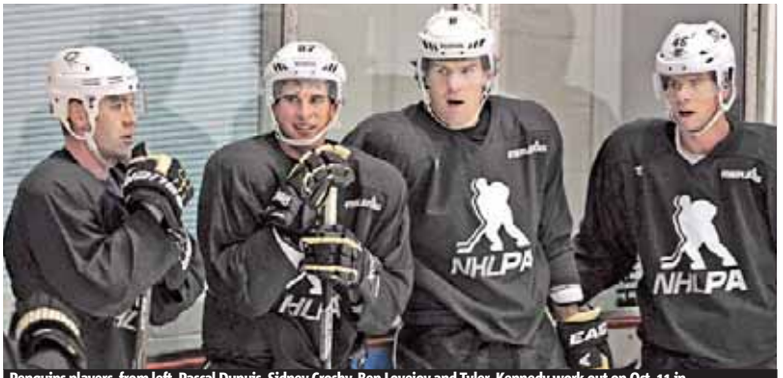
Brooks Orpik had a good reason to head back to Pittsburgh after spending the first three months of the NHL lockout in Massachusetts, and the Penguins defenceman insists it had nothing to do with optimism. He and the rest of his teammates are closer to getting back to work.

"I didn't have snow tires on my car, so I was like, 'If I wait this out any longer I'm going to get stuck here and not have a car down in Pittsburgh,'" Orpik said. "It was really just a change of scenery."

Orpik wasn't alone. He carpooled down to Pittsburgh with Tyler Kennedy, and a little bit of peer pressure convinced forward James Neal to join the handful of Penguins who have been working out regularly at the team's practice facility.

"It's just something different to stimulate you," Orpik said.

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby has been a fixture at the workouts, and having 15 players in all — including a couple of non-Penguins — allowed Crosby and company to pick up the pace a little bit.



Penguins players, from left, Pascal Dupuis, Sidney Crosby, Ben Lovejoy and Tyler Kennedy work out on Oct. 11 in Canonsburg, Pa. KEITH SRAKOCIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I think one thing that's the same all the way through is that guys are trying to do their best to stay ready and they're trying to make the best of the situation."

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby

While Crosby has long since stopped guessing when the NHL's labour dispute will end, he remains hopeful hockey will return at some point.

"The fact that they're talking is good and I think we've all said that, throughout this process, it's better than sitting around and not knowing what everyone is thinking," Crosby said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WagJag.com
GET DEALS ON THE GO!
iPhone app Android app

Save 50% OFF BEADS
$20 FOR $40 TOWARDS BEADS, SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL, GEMSTONES AND MORE AT ELUSIS BEADS
ELUSIS BEADS

MORE GREAT DAILY DEALS,
• 54% off Sock Monkey Hat and Glove Set
• 97% off Laser Hair Removal
• Up to 90% off a Watch
Sign up AND START SAVING, TODAY!
Visit WagJag.com
Follow us facebook.com/wagjag @wagjag

Jaunt.ca
Follow us: /GoJaunt @GoJaunt

Stunning Mountain Inn in Banff National Park
Lake Louise Inn, Lake Louise, AB
EXTENDED
ORIGINAL PRICE $364
$139 Buy before December 18, 2012
All offers subject to availability & other conditions. Please visit www.jaunt.ca for details. Gratuities are not included
tico.ca
Fulfillment services provided by Jaunt.ca Inc. 590 King Street West, Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 1M3 TICO Registration No.: 50020132

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	16	5	.762	—
Miami	14	5	.737	1
Atlanta	12	6	.667	2½
Philadelphia	12	9	.571	4
Chicago	11	9	.550	4½
Brooklyn	11	9	.550	4½
Boston	11	9	.550	4½
Milwaukee	10	9	.526	5
Indiana	10	11	.476	6
Orlando	8	12	.400	7½
Charlotte	7	13	.350	8½
Detroit	7	17	.292	10½
Cleveland	5	17	.227	11½
Toronto	**4**	**18**	**.182**	**12½**
Washington	3	15	.167	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	½
Memphis	14	4	.778	2
L.A. Clippers	15	6	.762	2 ½
Golden State	14	7	.667	3½
Utah	12	10	.545	6
Dallas	11	10	.524	6½
Denver	11	11	.500	7
Minnesota	9	9	.500	7
Houston	9	11	.450	8
Portland	9	12	.429	8½
L.A. Lakers	9	13	.409	9
Sacramento	7	13	.350	10
Phoenix	7	15	.318	11
New Orleans	5	15	.250	12

Division leaders ranked in top three positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Tuesday's results
Cleveland 100 L.A. Lakers 94
New York 100 Brooklyn 97
Denver 101 Detroit 94
Washington 77 New Orleans 70
L.A. Clippers 94 Chicago 89
Monday's results
Golden State 104 Charlotte 96
Philadelphia 104 Detroit 97
Miami 101 Atlanta 92
San Antonio 134 Houston 126 OT
Dallas 119 Sacramento 96
Portland 92 **Toronto 74**
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Brooklyn at **Toronto**, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Boston, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Washington at Houston, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Utah, 10:30 p.m.

NBA SCORING LEADERS

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	21	199	160	601	28.6
Durant, Okl	21	181	171	566	27.0
Anthony, NYK	18	165	109	482	26.8
James, Mia	19	190	73	479	25.2
Harden, Hou	19	140	151	469	24.7
Westbrook, Okl	21	162	94	451	21.5
Aldridge, Por	20	166	87	419	21.0
Mayo, Dal	21	153	69	436	20.8
Curry, GoS	21	144	75	421	20.0
Pierce, Bos	20	122	108	384	19.2
Gay, Mem	18	130	59	342	19.0
Parker, SA	20	153	63	377	18.9
Lee, GoS	21	162	71	395	18.8

Not including last night's games

LATE MONDAY NIGHT

TRAIL BLAZERS 92, RAPTORS 74

TORONTO (74)
DeRozan 7-16 6-6 20, Davis 3-7 8-8 14, Calderon 4-7 2-2 12, Pietrus 3-13 2-4 9, Valanciunas 4-6 0-0 8, Johnson 2-6 0-0 4, Bargnani 1-3 0-0 2, Gray 1-2 0-0 2, Ross 1-5 0-0 2, Lowry 0-5 1-1 1, Lucas 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 26-74 19-21 74.
PORTLAND (92)
Aldridge 11-19 8-8 30, Hickson 7-7 2-3 16, Smith 4-10 3-3 11, Pavlovic 5-12 0-1 10, Lillard 2-14 5-5 9, Leonard 2-3 2-2 6, Babbitt 2-9 0-0 4, Claver 2-12 0-0 4, Jeffries 1-2 0-0 2, Barton 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 36-89 20-22 92.

Toronto	**19**	**21**	**19**	**15 — 74**
Portland	**18**	**26**	**20**	**28 — 92**

3-Point Goals—Toronto 3-21 (Pietrus 1-7, Calderon 2-4, Lucas 0-4, DeRozan 0-2, Bargnani 0-2, Lowry 0-1, Ross 0-1). Portland 0-20 (Pavlovic 0-5, Babbitt 0-5, Lillard 0-5, Claver 0-3, Smith 0-1, Leonard 0-1).
Rebounds—Toronto 45 (Valanciunas 10, Davis 9, Lowry 7, DeRozan 4, Johnson 4, Pietrus 3, Gray 3, Calderon 2, Bargnani 2, Ross 1). Portland 48 (Aldridge 12, Hickson 11, Pavlovic 7, Lillard 5, Claver 5, Jeffries 4, Babbitt 3, Leonard 1). **Assists**—Toronto 13 (Calderon 6). Portland 16 (Lillard 6).
Total Fouls—Toronto 20, Portland 18.
Attendance—16,863 at Portland. T—2:08

RAPTORS STATISTICS

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
DeRozan	22	153	90	406	18.5
Bargnani	21	127	53	337	16.0
Lowry	16	78	72	253	15.8
Pietrus	5	18	6	52	10.4
Calderon	22	72	30	211	9.6
Valanciunas	22	72	37	181	8.2
Kleiza	13	33	19	97	7.5
Anderson	6	14	8	44	7.3
Johnson	22	61	33	157	7.1
Davis	22	52	34	138	6.3
Ross	20	45	2	106	5.3
Lucas	17	20	4	53	3.1
Fields	5	5	2	12	2.4
Acy	3	1	5	7	2.3
Gray	10	7	2	16	1.6

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE
Yesterday's result
Sunderland 3 Reading 0

FRANCE

LIGUE 1
Yesterday's results
Nice 1 Rennes 0
Paris SG 4 Valenciennes 0
Lille 2 Toulouse 0

SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH FA CUP
Fourth Round
Yesterday's results
Inverness C.T.F.C 2 Ross County 1
Aberdeen 2 Motherwell 1

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Worcester	23	12	8	1	2	65	70	27
Providence	23	12	8	0	2	53	61	26
Portland	24	12	10	1	1	74	79	26
Manchester	24	11	10	2	1	68	61	25
St. Johns	25	11	13	0	1	59	71	23

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Springfield	22	14	4	1	3	79	47	32
Bridgeport	24	11	11	1	1	73	81	24
Connecticut	23	10	11	2	0	69	82	22
Adirondack	23	10	12	1	0	59	69	21
Albany	20	7	8	0	5	44	53	19

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Syracuse	23	14	6	1	2	84	67	31
Binghamton	20	13	5	1	1	64	48	28
W-B/Scranton	22	13	7	1	1	65	55	28
Hershey	25	12	12	1	0	66	71	25
Norfolk	22	10	12	0	0	63	68	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Abbotsford	24	14	4	3	3	63	48	34
Toronto	23	13	9	0	1	76	65	27
Lake Erie	25	12	11	1	1	74	78	26
Rochester	22	11	9	2	0	72	66	24
Hamilton	21	9	10	1	1	43	64	20

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Grand Rapids	22	13	7	1	1	74	62	28
Rockford	25	13	11	0	1	81	76	27
Chicago	22	10	9	2	1	58	66	23
Milwaukee	23	10	10	2	1	64	70	23
Peoria	24	9	11	2	2	57	82	22

SOUTH

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Charlotte	25	14	9	0	2	82	71	30
Houston	23	13	7	1	2	76	64	29
Texas Stars	23	12	8	2	1	58	62	27
Oklahoma City	23	11	9	1	2	73	70	25
San Antonio	25	10	12	0	3	66	75	23

Tuesday's results
Houston 5 San Antonio 1
Hershey 2 St. Johns 1
Portland 2 Bridgeport 1, (OT)
Charlotte 3 Milwaukee 1
Rochester 3 Abbotsford 2, (SO)
Hamilton 1 Lake Erie 0
Peoria 4 Oklahoma City 2
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Hershey at St. John's, 6:30 p.m.
W-B/Scranton at Albany, 7 p.m.
Worcester at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Binghamton at Syracuse, 7 p.m.
Thursday's games
Rochester at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.
Hamilton at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 14
Syracuse at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Manchester at Portland, 7 p.m.
Albany at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Houston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Binghamton at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Bridgeport at Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.
Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Texas at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with LHP George Sherrill, RHP Dan Wheeler and OF Willy Taveras on minor league contracts.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with RHP Claudio Vargas, RHP Richard Thompson, LHP Juan Perez, 3B Eugenio Velez and 1B/DH Luis Jimenez on minor league contracts.

NFL

NFL — Overturned suspensions of New Orleans LB Jonathan Vilma, New Orleans DE Will Smith, Cleveland LB Scott Fujita and free agent DL Anthony Hargrove for their part in the Saints bounty program. Suspended Baltimore CB Asa Jackson four games for violating the league's policy on performance enhancing substances.
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Released WR Isaiah Williams from the practice squad.
BUFFALO BILLS — Placed RB Fred Jackson on injured reserve. Signed DT Jay Ross from the practice squad.
CHICAGO BEARS — Released OL Andre Gurode. Placed PK Robbie Gould, CB Sherrick McManis and S Craig Steltz on injured reserve. Signed PK Olindo Mare to a one-year contract and LB Jerry Franklin to a two-year contract. Signed WR Joe Anderson from the practice squad and G Chris Riley to the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS — Signed T Paul Cornick to the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Released LB Vic So'oto. Signed DT Jordan Miller from the practice squad.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Placed G Mike Brewster on injured reserve. Signed RB Keith Toston.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Placed WR Donte' Stallworth on injured reserve. Released TE Visanthe Shiancoe. Released OL Tommie Draheim from the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS — Claimed WR Braylon Edwards off waivers from Seattle.
OAKLAND RAIDERS — Signed WR Akwasi Owusu-Ansah to the practice squad.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Suspended RB Rashard Mendenhall for conduct detrimental to the team. Signed RB Baron Batch from the practice squad.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Placed DT Demarcus Dobbs on injured reserve.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Released WR Braylon Edwards.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Released WR David Gilreath. Placed DB Myron Lewis on injured reserve. Claimed G Hayworth Hicks off waivers from Kansas City.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Released RB Lennon Creer from the practice squad. Signed TE Martell Webb to the practice squad.

CFL

B.C. LIONS — Signed LB Adam Bighill to a contract extension.
CALGARY STAMPEDERS — Signed DL Corey Mace to a contract extension.
HAMILTON TIGER-CATS — Fired coach and director of football operations George Cortez.

MLS

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION — Traded M Benny Feilhaber to Sporting Kansas City for allocation money, a 2014 first-round draft pick and a 2015 second-round draft pick.
NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed G Santiago Castano and F Armando Moreno.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	10	3	0	.769	472	274
N.Y. Jets	6	7	0	.462	245	306
Miami	5	8	0	.385	240	276
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	289	352

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Houston	11	2	0	.846	365	263
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692	292	329
Tennessee	4	9	0	.308	271	386
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154	216	359

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	331	273
Pittsburgh	7	6	0	.538	278	264
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	321	280
Cleveland	5	8	0	.385	259	272

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	10	3	0	.769	375	257
San Diego	5	8	0	.385	292	281
Oakland	3	10	0	.231	248	402
Kansas City	2	11	0	.154	195	352

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	8	5	0	.615	373	270
Washington	7	6	0	.538	343	329
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	300	314
Philadelphia	4	9	0	.308	240	341

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Atlanta	11	2	0	.846	337	259
Tampa Bay	6	7	0	.462	354	308
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	348	379
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	265	312

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	4	0	.692	323	279
Chicago	8	5	0	.615	308	219
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	283	286
Detroit	4	9	0	.308	320	342

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	9	3	1	.731	316	184
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	300	202
St. Louis	6	6	1	.500	236	279
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	186	292

x — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

WEEK 14

Monday's result
New England 42 Houston 14
Sunday's results
St. Louis 15 Buffalo 12
Dallas 20 Cincinnati 19
Washington 31 Baltimore 28
San Diego 34 Pittsburgh 24
Cleveland 30 Kansas City 7
N.Y. Jets 17 Jacksonville 10
Philadelphia 23 Tampa Bay 21
Indianapolis 27 Tennessee 23
Minnesota 21 Chicago 14
Carolina 30 Atlanta 20
San Francisco 27 Miami 13
N.Y. Giants 52 New Orleans 27
Seattle 58 Arizona 0
Green Bay 27 Detroit 20

WEEK 15

Thursday's game — All Times Eastern
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
Washington at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Miami, 1 p.m.
Denver at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Buffalo, 4:05 p.m.
Carolina at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Detroit at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at New England, 8:20 p.m.

NFL PLAYOFF SCENARIOS

AFC

CLINCHED: New England AFC East; Denver, AFC West; Houston, playoff spot
HOUSTON
— Win
Clinches first-round bye with
— Win AND New England loss or tie AND Denver loss
BALTIMORE
— Win, or
— Tie AND Pittsburgh loss or tie AND Cincinnati loss or tie, or
— Loss AND Cincinnati loss
Clinches playoff spot with
— Tie, or
— Cincinnati loss or tie, or
— Pittsburgh loss or tie
INDIANAPOLIS
— Win, or
— Tie AND Cincinnati loss or tie, or
— Tie AND Pittsburgh loss or tie, or
— Tie AND Baltimore win, or
— N.Y. Jets loss or tie AND Cincinnati loss, or
— N.Y. Jets loss or tie AND Baltimore win AND Cincinnati tie AND Pittsburgh tie

NFC

CLINCHED: Atlanta, NFC South.
ATLANTA
— Win AND Green Bay loss or tie, or
— Win AND San Francisco loss, or
— Tie AND Green Bay loss
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with
— Win AND Green Bay loss or tie AND San Francisco loss
SAN FRANCISCO
— Win AND Seattle loss clinches a playoff spot with
— Win, or
— Tie AND Dallas loss or tie AND Washington loss or tie AND Minnesota loss or tie, or
— Tie AND Dallas loss or tie AND Washington loss or tie AND Green Bay-Chicago does not end in tie, or
— Tie AND Dallas loss or tie AND Minnesota loss or tie AND Chicago loss, or
— Tie AND N.Y. Giants loss AND Minnesota loss or tie AND Chicago loss, or
— Minnesota loss AND Dallas loss AND Washington loss AND Seattle loss or tie
GREEN BAY
— Win
Clinches playoff spot with
— Tie AND Dallas loss AND Washington loss AND St. Louis-Minnesota tie, or
— Tie AND Dallas loss AND Washington loss AND Minnesota loss AND San Francisco win or tie, or
— Tie AND Dallas loss AND Washington loss AND Minnesota loss AND Seattle does not tie

Flex your 2013 Ford muscles

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Space

From front to back, the Flex appears as straight up and down as a shoebox, which is a major contributor to its overall roominess. Although its six, or seven, passenger layout is near tops in this segment, cargo space with the rear seats in place or folded completely flat is about average.

The Flex's dashboard

2013 Ford Flex

- **Type.** Four-door, front/all-wheel-drive, full size wagon.
- **Engines (hp).** 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (287), 3.5 litre DOHC V6, twin-turbocharged (365).
- **Transmission.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl.destination).** $32,150

Design

The Flex is mostly rectangular and has highly practical styling. Ford's designers made no attempt to disguise the vehicle's significant size, but for the 2013 model year they did devise a far more expressive nose consisting of a single brushed aluminum bar flanked by projector beam-style headlights.

Engine

The standard 3.5-litre V6 now makes 287 horsepower and 254 pound-feet of torque, a gain of 25 horses and six pound-feet from the 2012 engine. Optional is the returning 3.5-litre twin-turbocharged "EcoBoost" V6 rated at 365 (hp) and 350 pound-feet of torque, but only if it's fed premium-grade gasoline.

Review. If there's one vehicle that lives up to its name, this is it!

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Say what you will about the Ford Flex, this big-rig takes its people and cargo-carrying role seriously, but with a sly wink and a nod when the topic of styling is mentioned.

Wagon-style bodies are somewhat of a Ford specialty. Along with the Flex, three-row seating is offered in the full-size Expedition and the Explorer, while the Edge, Escape and the passenger version of the Transit Connect cargo van provide space for five.

Among them, however, the Flex is unique. It sits low to the ground like a regular sedan and shares the same platform with the Lincoln MKT wagon. That's preferable for those who want to access their vehicle without using a stepladder.

For 2013, Ford has upgraded the Flex in other ways, including the availability of second-row seatbelts that act a bit like airbags and inflate within 40 milliseconds of a crash. Additional extra-cost safety gear consists of radar-based adaptive cruise control that keeps a steady distance from the vehicle in front, and blind spot information with cross-traffic alert that warns of overtaking vehicles and vehicles approaching from either side when backing out of a parking spot. Then there's curve control that can detect when the Flex is entering a turn too quickly and within a second applies braking force to slow the vehicle down by up to 16 km/h.

The Flex's three-model line up starts with the $32,150 (including destination charges) SE that arrives fairly well equipped with all the usual accessories and gadgets.

The Flex can seat six or seven people depending on your order.

The Flex's oversize dimensions and rectangular silhouette might give some buyers pause, but if you're seeking something different, thinking inside the box could make this Ford the perfect fit.

NEED COOL DESIGN TIPS?
Read metrohome every Thursday.

As the Body Shop Alternative we specialize in repairing minor body and bumper damage.

We repair and paint only the affected area.

Our repair cost is often close to or below your insurance deductible, and can be paid for out of pocket without the risk of claims against your policy.

Versatile Auto Appearance Services
Bay #9, 3300 14th Ave. NE
PH 403.992.7467
versatileauto@hotmail.com
FREE ESTIMATES
OPEN M-F 8:30AM - 5:30PM
SATURDAY 8:30AM - 1PM WITH APPOINTMENT

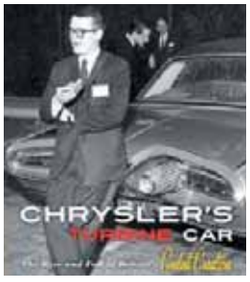
8 Automotive page turners

One of most accessible gifts you can get a car lover is a book. Local stores are stocked to the gills with them at this time of year and online sources can basically deliver them right to your door in a few days. However, what book to get is the tricky part. While it might be easy to simply pick up the first glossy-picture tome you see, getting a book with some actual words and a real story is what really gets us going. And that selection requires a little research. Well, we're your research. So, here are a few suggestions that are sure to beef up the library of any auto enthusiast.

JEFF MELNYCHUK
Wheelbase Media

ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

1



One cool Chrysler

Long before automakers began developing alternatives to piston-driven powerplants, Chrysler Corporation was working out the kinks for jet-style turbine power, although not to any satisfactory conclusion. Author Steve Lehto has documented these efforts in his book Chrysler's Turbine Car, The Rise and Fall of Detroit's Coolest Creation. Chrysler commissioned 55 of these jet-style turbine-engine cars and loaned them for testing by selected families throughout the United States. For a variety of reasons, Chrysler decided against turbine power and all but nine of the vehicles were destroyed

2

The 'Vette turns 60

Hard to imagine, but what is considered North America's first sports car turns 60 in 2013. Author Randy Leffingwell has considerable experience writing about the Corvette and produced a weighty coffee-table tome on the subject's 50th anniversary. His latest book expands on the topic and includes photos (many never before published), descriptions and considerable commentary on all six generations of Corvettes, from 1953 to the present day. Leffingwell also reviews the people who have influenced the car's development, including designers, engineers, marketers and racing drivers.

3

More barn finds

Author Tom Kotter recently launched The Corvette in the Barn, a continuation of his In the Barn book series. The stories focus on when, where and how people have located rare and/or collectable vehicles that have been stashed away for years in barns, garages, warehouses and fields, etc. Many of the cars have a strong connection to the original, or bequeathed owners who, in most cases, are reluctant to part with their treasures. How they are finally convinced to part with these abandoned classics, which are restored to good running order makes for fascinating reading.

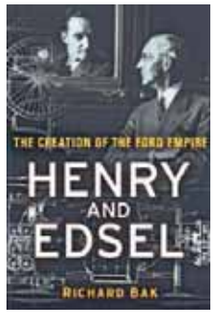
4

The racing actor

There are books about famous movie stars and books about famous auto racers, but rarely do the two disciplines converge. Paul Newman is one example, while Hollywood legend Steve McQueen, who died at age 50 from cancer in 1980, would be another. It was his 1971 portrayal as Porsche-pilot Michael Delaney in Le Mans (a movie he also produced) where McQueen displayed his absolute fanaticism for auto racing. Frédéric Brun's book Steve McQueen A Passion For Speed is full of behind-the-scenes photos of the actor/racer's obsession in front of the camera as well as participating in various racing events. It's $40 US from motorbooks.com.

5

Those founding Fords

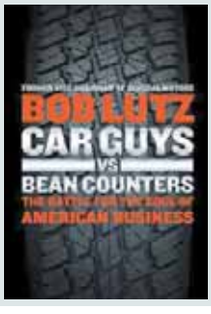


Henry and Edsel: The Creation of the Ford Empire, by Richard Bak, delves into the background of one of the most famous inventor/moguls the world has ever known. Bak not only traces the genesis of the Ford company, but lays bare the often troubled and tempestuous relationship between Henry Ford and the son who predeceased him. Also covered is the relationship between the senior Ford and Harry Bennett, his right-hand man and the person who, as Ford's security director, was also frequently at odds with Henry's son.

6

Think like a car

One of the most famous men in the car biz is Bob Lutz, who was General Motors' product king right up until its bankruptcy a few years back. While it would be easy to toss Bob under the bus for his perceived role, his accounting of what actually happened might have you thinking differently. Bob Lutz's Car Guys vs. Bean Counters chronicles an ongoing battle with non-product types who actually shape product through cost cutting, a philosophy that nearly spelled doom for General Motors. This head-in-the-sand culture was apparently prevalent during Lutz's time as a General Motors executive.



7

Who's the Boss?

The original Ford Mustang was perceived by the automaker as a blank canvas from which a competitive racing machine could be forged. Over the decades, the Boss attained cult status, with prices for the few original versions skyrocketing. Donald Farr's book Mustang Boss 302: From Racing Legend to Modern Muscle Car, traces the origins of the Boss project and picks up the story with the designation's return for the 2012 model year. If your recipient is in love with the look of the Mustang, then this book proves that it's more than just about cake-dressing.

8

Colour your cars

Dover Publications' series of automotive-themed colouring books is perfect for whiling away the hours as you attempt to keep within the lines. The titles include Classic Cars of the Fifties, American Muscle Cars, Racing Cars and Historic Automobiles. Some also include key facts and statistics about the various vehicles and, in particular, the Classic Racing Cars book also includes the correct colour code for each illustration. The colouring books start at $4 US each and can be purchased at doverpublications.com.

We've got Employee Pricing

Just In Time For Christmas!

LIMITED TIME ONLY

You Pay What We Pay

SAVINGS OVER $13,000

2013 GMC
SIERRA 1500
CREW CAB 4WD

VORTEC 5.3L V8, 17" ALUMINUM SPORT WHEELS, USB PORT, TRAILERING PKG, LOCKING REAR DIFFERENTIAL, ONSTAR

MSRP: $45,320
EMPLOYEE: $34,619
C FOR C : $2,500
SHAW EMPLOYEE PRICE
$32,119
BI-WEEKLY AT
$229

2013 GMC
TERRAIN
REAR CAMERA, XM RADIO, BLUETOOTH, A/C, ONSTAR

MSRP: $30,295
SHAW EMPLOYEE PRICE
$27,457
BI-WEEKLY AT
$195

SAVINGS OVER $11,500

2013 CHEVROLET
SILVERADO
1500 EXT CAB 4X4
PWR DOOR LOCKS, BLUETOOTH, LOCKING DIFFERENTIAL, ONSTAR

MSRP: $37,535
EMPLOYEE PRICE: $27,695
C FOR C : $2,000
SHAW EMPLOYEE PRICE
$25,695
BI-WEEKLY AT
$185

2012 CHEVROLET
CRUZE
BLUETOOTH, USB PORT, ALL-WEATHER MATS, XM RADIO, ONSTAR

MSRP: $19,875
SHAW EMPLOYEE PRICE
$16,663
BI-WEEKLY AT
$120

WE PAY FOR YOUR REFERRALS!

PAYMENTS ARE O.A.C. AT 4.99% FOR 84 MONTHS. TAXES (GST, $20 TIRE & $100 A/C) AND FEES ($449 ADMINISTRATION, $149.95 WHEEL LOCKS AND NITROGEN @ $4.25 AMVIC) NOT INCLUDED. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS EXEMPT. VEHICLE MAY NOT BE EXACTLY AS SHOWN.

SHAW
GMC CHEVROLET BUICK
4620 Blackfoot Trail SE, Calgary, AB
T2G 4G2 403-243-4200

CREDIT CALGARY
Bad credit? No credit?
100% APPROVAL RATING
APPLY NOW AT CREDITCALGARY.COM 403-287-5974

SHAWGMC.COM

FOLLOW US FOR NEWS, EVENTS, SPECIALS, PRIZES
FREE MOBILE APP
App Store
Google play
ilikeshaw.com

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
BEST MANAGED COMPANIES
AMVIC LICENSED
AMVIC #10234902

2012 YEAR END COUNTDOWN

CANYON CREEK TOYOTA

LIKE US: facebook.com/cctoyota

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

12 DAYS of CREEKmas

DECEMBER 12TH–27TH

PUT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT UNDER THE TREE THIS YEAR!

2012 TOYOTA RAV4 4WD
BF4DVP AA

$190 BIWEEKLY

0% 72 MONTH FINANCING!

2013 TOYOTA COROLLA CE
BU42EP CA

$136 BIWEEKLY

2013 TOYOTA SIENNA
AWD • LE • V6 • JK3DCT AA

$261 BIWEEKLY

2013 TOYOTA TACOMA
4X4 • V6 D/CAB • MU4FNA AA

$228 BIWEEKLY

2012 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER AWD
LIMITED • V6 • BF4DVP AA

$343 BIWEEKLY

TUNDRA "CHINOOK" EDITION

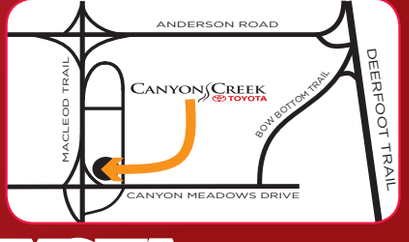
ONLY AT CANYON CREEK TOYOTA!
THE ULTIMATE TUNDRA 4X4 PACKAGE

THE CHINOOK EDITION INCLUDES: 5.7L V8 • 3 INCH LIFT KIT • 18 INCH INCUBUS WHEELS AND BF GOODRICH A/T TIRES • BUSHWACKER FENDER FLARES • HARD FOLDING TONNEAU COVER * REAR STEP BUMPER AND MUCH MORE! • UY5F1T BA

OVER $6,000 IN EXTRAS! **$46,850** PLUS GST

2012 TOYOTA VENZA AWD
BA3BBT AA

$223 BIWEEKLY



370 CANYON MEADOWS DR. SE
CALGARY

(403) 278-6066

www.CANYONCREEKTOYOTA.com

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN CANYON CREEK TOYOTA!

CHOOSE FROM 12 GREAT NO CHARGE EXTRAS WITH ANY NEW TOYOTA!

- REMOTE STARTER!
- HEATED SEAT!
- 3 YEARS' SERVICE!
- RUNNING BOARDS!
- RUST PROOFING!
- 3M CARBON PACKAGE!
- OIL CHANGE FOR LIFE!
- TONNEAU COVER!
- TUBE STEP BARS!
- 10.2" DVD PLAYER!
- 2 ULTIMATE DETAILS
- TOWING PACKAGE!

ALBERTA MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY COUNCIL LICENSED

PLEASE READ. ALL OFFERS OAC. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. ALL OFFERS INCLUDE FREIGHT AND FEES OF ($395 ADMIN/$6.95 AMVIC) AIR TAX ($100) AND TIRE TAX ($20) AND EXCLUDE GST. BIWEEKLY PAYMENTS BASED ON $1500 DOWN OR TRADE EQUIVALENT @ 0% RAV4, 0.9% COROLLA, 1.9% VENZA/SIENNA, 2.9% TACOMA, 4.99% HIGHLANDER FOR 72 MONTHS. CONDITIONS MAY APPLY. 12 DAYS OFFER HAS NO CASH EQUIVALENT VALUE. INSTALLATION EXTRA (WHERE APPLICABLE). CONDITIONS MAY APPLY. LIMITED TIME OFFERS. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS.

CANYON CREEK TOYOTA

TRIP for 2 to Fabulous LAS VEGAS

GET OUTTA TOWN!

YOU CHOOSE THE DESTINATION: DISNEYLAND OR VEGAS!

2011 TOYOTA TACOMA
02832P • 22,000 KM • SR5 • DOUBLECAB • 4X4

$29,268 OR $199/BW

2008 VOLVO XC70 AWD
001444T • 97,644 KM • LEATHER • LOADED!

$21,376 OR $193/BW

2010 CHRYSLER 300
189091T • 65,698 • TOURING • LEATHER

$18,375 OR $143/BW

2005 TOYOTA CAMRY LE
068291T • 60,000 KM • AUTO • A/C • CRUISE

CLEAROUT! $14,075

2009 ACURA TL
801506P • FULL LOADED • A MUST SEE!

$23,283 OR $180/BW

2003 TOYOTA COROLLA
754802T • 119,000 KM • SPORT • SUNROOF

SALE PRICE! $9,390

2011 CHEVY CRUZE ECO
219807T • 17,000 KM • A/C • WINTER & SUMMER TIRES

$18,283 OR $125/BW

2004 TOYOTA RAV4 4WD
028919T • 115,000 KM • AUTO • POWER GROUP

CHEAP 4X4! $11,333

2011 KIA RONDO EX V6
344175T • 20,252 • LEATHER • 3RD ROW SEATING

$20,393 OR $139/BW

2012 HYUNDAI SONATA
345160P • 39,710 KM • XM RADIO

$19,378 OR $133/BW

2010 NISSAN SENTRA
691518P • 80,648 KM • AUTO • A/C • CRUISE

$11,363 OR $92/BW

2009 TOYOTA VENZA
001322P • 63,000 KM • V6 • AWD

$26,383 OR $210/BW

2010 TOYOTA TACOMA
689653P • 56,500 KM • ACCESS CAB • 4X4

$25,977 OR $206/BW

2009 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
126061P • 54,480 KM • AWD • V6 • LEATHER • MOOROOF

$35,393 OR $273/BW

2008 TOYOTA YARIS LE
186556P • 75,700 KM • 5-DOOR • AUTO • KEYLESS ENTRY

$12,393 OR $112/BW

2007 HONDA CIVIC
011253T • 79,000 KM • DX • 5-SPEED

$10,243 OR $95/BW

2006 TOYOTA SOLARA
104310T • 79,000 KM • SLE CONVERTIBLE • LOADED

was $19,283! $17,289

2008 HUMMER H2 SUT
110269T • 89,000 KM • LOADED • LEATHER • NAV • DVD

$37,283 OR $333/BW

2008 MAZDA 3 SPORT
871112T • HATCH • AUTO • A/C • 61,000KM

$15,383 OR $145/BW

2004 MAZDA MPV
525090T • 110,830 KM • V6 • NAV SYSTEM

MUST GO!! $9,390

2008 TOYOTA PRIUS
391552T • A/C • NAV • GREAT SERVICE • 95,000KM

$17,175 OR $155/BW

2000 TOYOTA RAV4 4WD
237060T • 176,418 KM • 5-SPEED • A/C • NICE!

CHEAP 4WD! $6,380

2010 TOYOTA TUNDRA
129266T • 67,862 KM • CREWMAX • 4X4 • LIMITED

$39,383 OR $302/BW

1997 HONDA CR-V
808480P • AUTO • A/C

CHEAP 4WD!! $5,895

2011 TOYOTA RAV4 AWD
140910LP • 30,500 KM • BOUGHT & SERVICED HERE

$27,683 OR $203/BW

PLUS NO PAYMENTS UNTIL MAY 2013!

CALL: 403-278-6066

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN CANYON CREEK TOYOTA!

www.CANYONCREEKTOYOTA.com

AMVIC LICENSED- ALL OFFERS OAC.GST EXTRA. BIWEEKLY PAYMENTS BASED ON 5.99% RATE (6.99% FOR VEHICLES UNDER $12,000) WITH $0 DOWNPAYMENT. TERM VARIES BY MODEL YEAR. TRIP FOR 2 AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. INVENTORY ACCURATE AT TIME OF PUBLICATION. VEHICLES MAY NOT BE EXACTLY AS DEPICTED. LIMITED TIME OFFERS. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS.

Motorcycle show big on the small

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

I wouldn't say there is anything wrong with an outrageously loud and over-powered Orange County chopper, especially to the weathered face and tattooed biceps of a large person who just got off such a bike in the parking lot. But bigger motorbikes are just not my style.

I love small motorcycles. They're fun to ride and easy to own. And I'm in the styling camp that gravitates to great proportions above all else, so to me, overall size has very little to do with the visual impact and/or appeal of any given bike or car. So I was thrilled to see so many neat and smallish rides on the show floor of last weekend's motorcycle show in Toronto.

This is the show run by the manufacturers, via its Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council (MMIC). After Toronto, the MMIC show makes stops in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Quebec, Moncton and Montreal. (Check local listings for dates and venues).

At last year's show, for example, you wouldn't have seen the new Suzuki GW250, or Honda's new CB500 line (CB500F, CB500X, CBR500R). Honda suddenly has a very attractive and logical progression of street bikes, in 125-cc, 250-cc and 500-cc formats.

"People want an affordable entry level motorcycle. That's where the market is going right now," said Dave Hawson, director of sales and marketing for Suzuki Canada's motorcycle, ATV and marine division.

Hawson added that a lot of the "affordability" of smaller bikes manifests itself in the insurance end, especially for younger and/or newer riders.

He's dead right. My small phone survey to brokers revealed that an 18-year-old looking to insure a 600-cc sportbike in the GTA would be looking at premiums of about $3,500 to $4,000 and beyond. By contrast, that same 18-year-old rider could insure a 250-cc bike in the GTA for $1,500 to $2,000 — basically half the price.

At the show I ran into Dave Mackenzie of Motorsports Canada, which imports the Wolf Classic 150 — a Honda Rebel knockoff with a 150-cc engine.

He felt that up until a few years ago, the Canadian market was "starved" of small motorcycles. He believed the big brands shied away from them here in North America, because there was simply more money to be found, per unit, in the larger bike formats. I guess it's hard to say whether that was the case, or if it was simply a case of no one wanting to buy the smaller bikes back then.

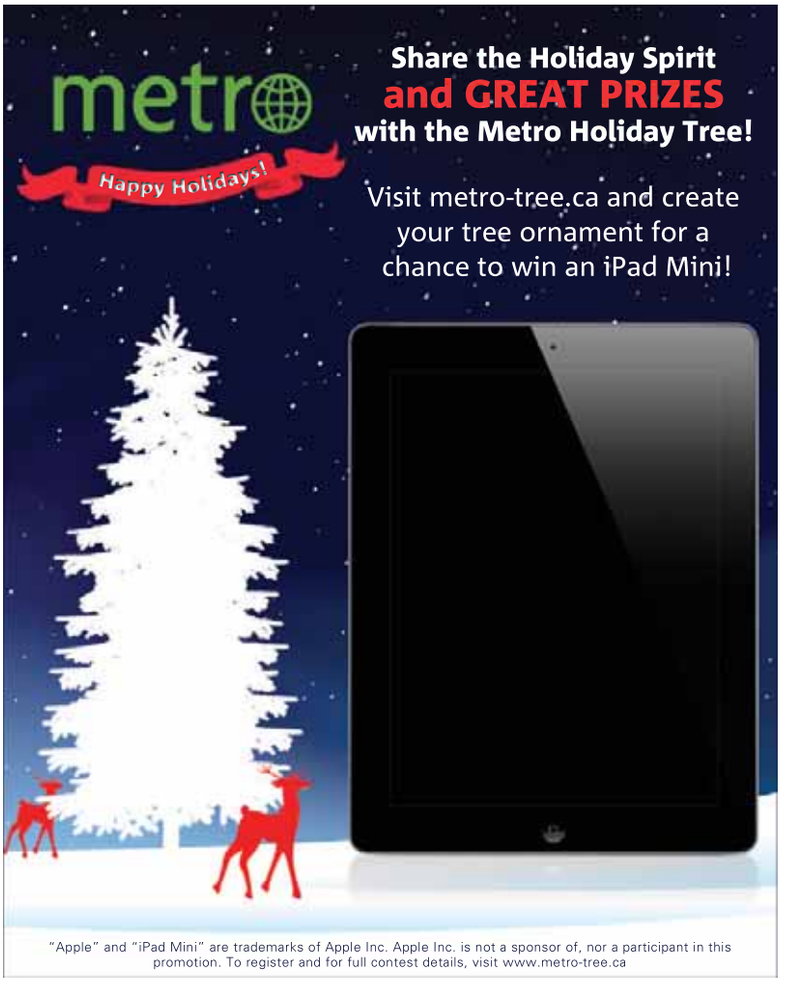
But there is no denying, however, that the big brands are more aware and concerned than ever that their biggest group of motorcycles buyers — the boomers — are getting older and older and will soon fade from the scene and that they need a new generation of buyers to get into motorcycling culture.Insurance and industry forces aside, I think people have also generally rediscovered the joys of smallish motorcycles, after years of chasing horsepower and their high-speed capabilities.

For those that like the bigger stuff, have no fear. The influx of smaller bikes has not diminished the number of variety of big, powerful bikes, in all their guises. To each their own, I say, even if they are so wrong in their big-bike convictions that they can no longer be saved from them. Even by me.

The hustle and bustle of the show. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

This model is part of Honda's new CB500 line.

The Suzuki GW250.


metro
Happy Holidays!
Share the Holiday Spirit
and GREAT PRIZES
with the Metro Holiday Tree!
Visit metro-tree.ca and create your tree ornament for a chance to win an iPad Mini!
"Apple" and "iPad Mini" are trademarks of Apple Inc. Apple Inc. is not a sponsor of, nor a participant in this promotion. To register and for full contest details, visit www.metro-tree.ca

SiriusXM

DODGE CARAVAN KIDS
PROUD SPONSOR OF AMATEUR HOCKEY ACROSS CANADA

2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown.[§]

LEASING IS BACK!

ASK ABOUT OUR INTRODUCTORY RATE OF 4.99% FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS[‹]

2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN CANADA VALUE PACKAGE
CANADA'S #1 SELLING MINIVAN FOR 29 YEARS

$20,898• INCLUDES $8,100 CONSUMER CASH[+] AND FREIGHT.

OR FINANCE FOR

$120[‡] BI-WEEKLY @ **4.49%** FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

36 MPG HWY
7.9 L/100 KM HWY[¤]

283 HP
BEST-IN-CLASS[▪]

AVAILABLE FEATURES FOR THE 2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN

2ND ROW OVERHEAD 9" VIDEO SCREEN

2ND ROW POWER WINDOWS

2ND ROW SUPER STOW 'n GO®

PARKVIEW® REAR BACK-UP CAMERA

2013 DODGE JOURNEY CANADA VALUE PACKAGE
CANADA'S #1 SELLING CROSSOVER[#]

$20,698•

INCLUDES $2,000 CONSUMER CASH[+] AND FREIGHT.

38 MPG HWY
7.5 L/100 KM HWY[¤]

2013 Dodge Journey Crew shown.[§]

OR FINANCE FOR

$119[‡] BI-WEEKLY @ **4.49%** FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

IT'S YOUR JOURNEY, MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

- BEST-IN-CLASS STORAGE[˄]
- BEST-IN-CLASS V6 DRIVING RANGE[˄]
- LARGEST TOUCH-SCREEN IN ITS CLASS[˄]
- PREMIUM SOFT-TOUCH INTERIOR
- CLASS-EXCLUSIVE IN-FLOOR STORAGE[˄]
- MOST AFFORDABLE MID-SIZE CROSSOVER IN CANADA[^]

GET UP TO **$1,000** BONUS CASH ON SELECT MODELS[*]

CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE RAM

Dodge.ca/Offers

SCAN HERE
FOR MORE GREAT OFFERS

Wise customers read the fine print: •, ‡, ‹, ¤, ▪, §. The Holiday Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating dealers on or after December 1, 2012. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating dealers for complete details and conditions. •$20,898 Purchase Price applies to 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29F+DJ9) only and includes $8,100 Consumer Cash Discount. $20,698 Purchase Price applies to 2012 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F+DLE) only and includes $2,000 Consumer Cash Discount. Pricing includes freight ($1,500-$1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. See participating dealers for complete details. ‡Holiday Bonus Cash up to $1,000 is available on most new 2012/2013 models, excluding the following: Chrysler 200 LX, Dodge Caliber, Dart, Grand Caravan CVP, Journey CVP/SE, Avenger, Viper, Jeep Compass Sport 4x2 & 4x4, Patriot Sport 4x2 & 4x4, Wrangler 2 Dr Sport, Grand Cherokee SRT8, Ram 1500 Reg Cab & ST & SXT Trucks, Ram Cab & Chassis, Ram Cargo Van, FIAT 500 Abarth and 2012 FIAT 500 Pop models. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. See your dealer for complete details. ‹4.99% lease financing available through WS Leasing Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Westminster Credit Union) ("WS") to qualified retail customers on new 2012/2013 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram and FIAT models at participating dealers in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Territories. Example: 2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo with a Purchase Price of $35,286 including $1,000 Holiday Bonus Cash and $2,500 Lease Delivery Credit. Purchase Price includes freight ($1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, dealer charges and taxes. Lease offer is based on a 60 month term at 4.99% APR and 130 bi-weekly payments of $283.18, for a total obligation of $36,813. Lease rate is subject to credit approval. Dealer may sell for less. See your dealer for complete details. ¤4.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on the new 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package models to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Auto Finance and Ally Credit Canada. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. See your dealer for complete details. Examples: 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package/2013 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package with a Purchase Price of $20,898/$20,698 (including applicable Consumer Cash Discounts) financed at 4.49% over 96 months with $0 down payment equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $120/$119 with a cost of borrowing of $3,995/$3,957 and a total obligation of $24,893/$24,655. Pricing includes freight ($1,500-$1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. See your dealer for complete details. ▪Based on *Ward's* 2012 Small Van Segmentation. Excludes other Chrysler Group LLC designed and/or manufactured vehicles. ¤Based on R. L. Polk Canada Inc. January to October 2011 Canadian Total New Vehicle Registration data for Chrysler Crossover Segments. ^Based on 2013 *Ward's* Middle Cross Utility segmentation. ¤Based on 2013 EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Transport Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan – Hwy: 7.9 L/100 km (36 MPG) and City: 12.2 L/100 km (23 MPG). 2013 Dodge Journey SE 2.4 L 4-speed automatic – Hwy: 7.5 L/100 km (38 MPG) and City: 10.8 L/100 km (26 MPG). ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

With visibility vital, winter wipers always keep safety in sight

Driving Force.
Just like tires, it's wise to switch wipers when the cold kicks in to ensure maximum safety

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Your wiper blades are among the most critical safety features on your vehicle. If you can't see, you're not safe, and dirt builds up quickly in winter weather.

"Visibility is extremely important," says Graham Jeffrey, winter driving expert for Canadian Tire. "You want the wiper that will give you the best possible performance."

The claw structure, one of the oldest designs, uses a thin blade. A more modern design is the beam blade, which uses a wider wiper.

"Instead of pressure points like the claw structure, the beam maintains even pressure across the blade, which gives it a more consistent wipe," Jeffrey says.

"And with the claw structure, there are open spaces where you can get a lot of snow build-up, which limits the wiper's ability to form to the windshield and give you a solid wipe."

At higher speeds, claw blades are more susceptible to wind, which can lift them off the glass and cause chatter. Beam blades are more aerodynamic and aren't as affected by this.

Just as you can put winter tires on your car, you can also switch to winter wiper blades. Originally these were claw blades with a rubber boot that prevented them clogging with snow.

Today's winter blades use a special rubber compound that stays supple at very low temperatures. Most will wear quickly in hot weather, so it's best to switch to regular blades in spring, and store these pricier blades until next winter.

Quoted

"A beam blade on its own is not defined as a winter wiper blade. Beam blades have a significant advantage over a claw blade and if you're going to use one all year round the beam blade is better."

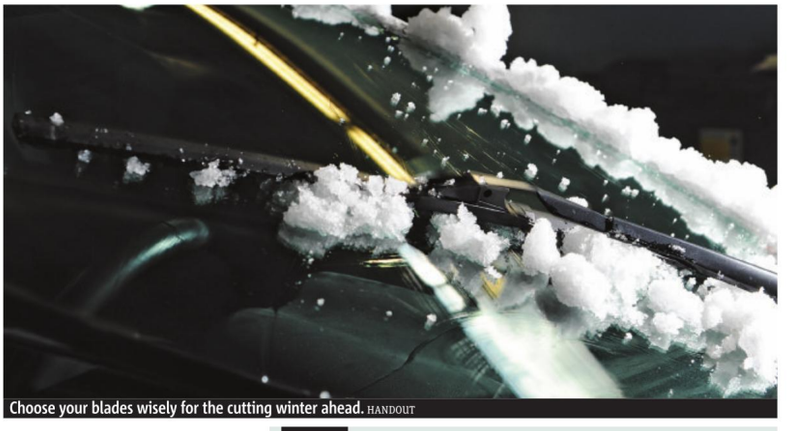
Graham Jeffrey, winter driving expert for Canadian Tire
On the importance of choosing the right windscreen wiper.

"A beam blade on its own is not defined as a winter wiper blade," Jeffrey says.

"Beam blades have a significant advantage over a claw blade, and if you're only going to use one year-round, the beam blade is better. But when you get into a winter blade, you get that winter compound too."

When cleaning ice off your windshield, be careful not to hit your wiper blades with the scraper. If the blades are stuck to the windshield, turn on the defrosters to help free them. If you just pull on them, they may tear.

And never shut off your engine with the wipers on: if they freeze to the glass, it could damage the wiper motor when you restart the car.


Choose your blades wisely for the cutting winter ahead. HANDOUT

Rules

- **No dirty blades.** Always replace your wiper blades if they start to streak or leave dirty patches.
- **Choose correct fluid.** Use windshield washer fluid that's formulated for winter temperatures. If fluid freezes on the glass, you won't be able to see.
- **Double check wiper choice.** Some vehicles have two different sized wiper blades, due to the shape of the windshield, so be sure you're buying the right ones.

AS EXHILARATING AS IT IS AFFORDABLE.
Every Certified Pre-Owned Mazda we sell comes with warranties and guarantees to ensure that you drive away fully satisfied in a quality vehicle that you can depend on.

0.9% APR‡
SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED
- 160-Point Detailed Inspection
- 7-Year/140,000-Kilometre Limited Powertrain Warranty†
- 24-Hour Emergency Roadside Assistance
- 30-Day/3,000-Kilometre Exchange Privilege
- CarProof® Vehicle History Report
- Zero Deductible
- Available Extended Coverage

CRAFTED. ENGINEERED. CERTIFIED. zoom-zoom
mazda

†Coverage begins from the original new retail sale date and covers 7-years/140,000-kilometres, whichever comes first. ‡0.9% APR only for well qualified buyers; not all buyers will qualify. Amount of down payment and other factors may affect qualification. 0.9% APR available on all models and all qualifying model years (the 5 model years immediately preceding the date of this advertisement, or newer) for up to 24-month terms. Based on a representative example of $15,000 financed at 0.9% over 24 months equals monthly payments of $630.88 with $0 down payment, cost of borrowing is $141.03 with a total obligation of $15,141.03. Licence, insurance, taxes, down payment, and, where applicable, PPSA and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at time of purchase. Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offer subject to change without notice. Visit your participating dealer for complete details.

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Don't take sides or play favourites today. In fact, steer clear of contentious issues altogether if you can. No matter how hard you try to be fair, you will make more enemies than friends.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You are being too serious about something that is of no importance in the greater scheme of things. Focus on what makes you feel good, what makes you laugh, what makes you glad to be alive. Nothing else matters.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may seem as if someone you live or work with is trying to undermine your efforts, but in reality you are reading too much into a situation that is quite straightforward. Don't listen to what they say — watch what they do.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
No matter how annoying certain people get today, you must not allow yourself to be provoked. You may be raging on the inside but if you stay calm on the outside it will defuse what could have been a messy situation.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A sudden attraction is likely today but it may be more than just romantic. Most likely you will meet someone whose mind is a match for your own, and whose sense of humour has you laughing fit to bust.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to do some serious thinking about a relationship that has brought you a lot of pleasure but also a considerable amount of pain. Is it worth carrying on with? Only you can decide. Make your choice.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You need to slow down and catch your breath today because what happens over the following three or four days will be both exciting and exhausting. Give your body, your mind and your emotions a rest — they've earned it.

Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
If you uncover some juicy information about a friend, you should keep it to yourself. It will save them from embarrassment — and give you a bargaining chip you may one day be able to use.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Some people are feeling rather resentful towards you. Why? Because everything you touch turns to gold. It's not your fault you are smack bang in the middle of such a fortunate phase, so don't feel guilty about it.

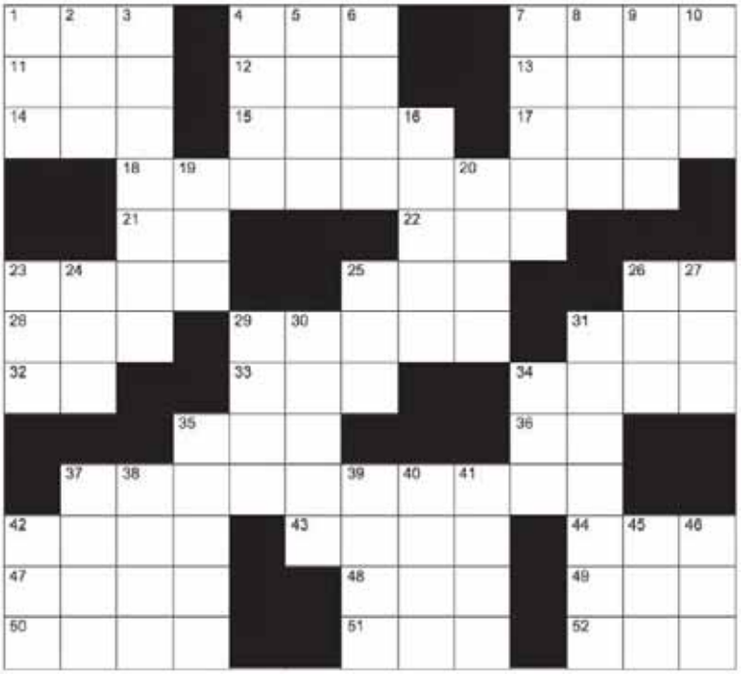
Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The planets warn that although it's right to feel pleased with what you have achieved, it would be wrong to believe it's all plain sailing from now on. A new challenge is heading your way. Be ready for it.

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Stop thinking about what has gone wrong and focus on the many things that are still going right for you. There is no reason at all why you should be in a downbeat mood. Life is good and getting better.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A friend in need may be the last thing you want to deal with right now but you are not the sort to turn them away. Do what you can to soothe their fears and ease their pain. You'll benefit too, in unexpected ways. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

BY BETTY MARTIN



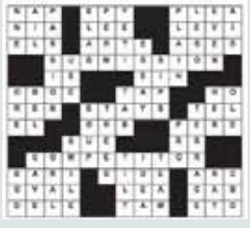
Across

1. Apple product
4. Golfer's goal
7. Reunion attendee
11. Stop – - dime (2 words)
12. Before, or yore
13. Singer/actress Falana
14. Ruin
15. Make over
17. Fashion magazine
18. Star of Touched by an Angel (2 words)
21. – the Heat of the Night
22. Buddhist sect
23. Fuss
25. Gamble
26. "How to Marry a Millionaire" actress (init.)
28. "Con —"
29. Wedge
31. Bikini half
32. Courtroom figure (abbr.)
33. Snakelike fish
34. My Name is —
35. Syrup source
36. Minneapolis state.
37. Wee Irish fairy
42. Actress Ramirez of Grey's Anatomy
43. "— on Me"
44. La Rue of CSI: Miami
47. Related
48. Do away with
49. — Tin Tin
50. Jeans go-with
51. Pauses
52. Unhappy

Down

1. We celebrate her in May
2. Actress Ortiz of Ugly Betty
3. Transporter
4. Hairdo
5. Space
6. Comedian Foxx
7. Actress Close
8. Function
9. — McBeal
10. Daniel — Kim of Hawaii Five-O
16. Seeps
19. Toronto's prov.
20. Dampens
23. Passing fancy
24. Inlet
25. Sound measure
26. Sub zero comment
27. Guy's date
29. Juicy fruit
30. Ward off
31. Pennants
34. Aussie bird
35. Reaches
37. Pond
38. Canal of song
39. Bird-bill part
40. Broadway musical
41. No ifs, — or buts
42. Was in session
45. By way of
46. The Bold – the Beautiful

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

5						3		9
		1	3		2			
2					7			
		2					6	
	5	6	4	8	9	7	1	
	7					4		
			2					1
			7		8	6		
1		4						3

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	1	4	6	5	9	2	7	3
5	7	2	8	4	3	9	6	1
9	3	6	1	2	7	8	5	4
4	6	8	9	7	1	5	3	2
3	2	1	5	6	6	4	9	7
7	5	9	4	3	2	1	8	6
1	8	5	3	6	4	7	2	9
6	9	7	2	1	5	3	4	8
2	4	3	7	9	8	6	1	5

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: -12° MIN: -12°	MAX: -6° MIN: -13°	MAX: -5° MIN: -9°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

ANDREW SCHULTZ METEOROLOGIST

"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta".

WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM

Sharability

easy hard

YOU DON'T COME HERE TO VACATION.

YOU COME HERE TO ESCAPE THE ORDINARY.

It's the premier place to live the good life for a few days. Whether you are looking for the latest in fashion or sumptuous meals from world-renowned chefs, we'll reward you with a few days of exploring a new lifestyle. Book your complete vacation with air and hotel packages at **LasVegas.com**.

LAS Vegas